

INSIDE

- Tiger on course; Cub in jungle 4
- Newark teachers seek justice in fraud implication 5
- A tribute to Arthur Flecher 6

Volume 13, Number 32

LEADERS OF FOUR
DENOMINATIONS
CONFESS TO SIN OF
RACISM

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—The bishops of the Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Methodist churches in South Carolina issued a statement Friday confessing to the sin of racial hatred and asking for forgiveness.

The statement, signed after a two-day conference on racism, asks Christians to "help us in our struggles to overcome the sin of racism, the powerful prejudice which pits one race against the other to the damage of all."

The bishops also announced plans to make a public confession at a service in Greenville in January.

"This is a very important step," said Rev. Ron Brown, Clingfield, the general secretary of the National Council of Churches. "It's a very local reaction from the church leaders in the state that had the greatest number of church burnings."

At least 17 black churches have been burned in South Carolina since 1991.

The bishops, representing 466,000 church members, said if they deserve to be called Christians, they must "embrace each other totally and in the firm belief in one Lord, one baptism, one human family with equal liberty and justice for all."

They also said "no dogmas, no creeds, no Christian denominations divide us on these beliefs."

The statement was signed by Bishop David A. Donges of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bishop Dorsey F. Henderson Jr. of the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina, Bishop J. Lawrence McClenney of the United Methodist Church, Bishop Edward Salmon Jr. of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina and Bishop David Thompson of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston.

Topics at the two-day conference included the small number of blacks in local and statewide church leadership positions and the past practice of designating rear pews as balconies for black worshippers.

Two years ago the nation's largest Protestant denomination, the 15.6 million-member Southern Baptist Convention, took the same step on a nationwide basis, approving a historic statement asking forgiveness for racism. The denomination was created in 1845 in a split between supporters and opponents of slavery, and was silent on or actively opposed civil rights for most of its history.

ESSEX COUNTY GUARD
ARRESTED ON DRUG
SMUGGLING CHARGE

NEWARK (AP)—An Essex County jail guard was arrested Friday for allegedly trying to smuggle drugs into the facility, authorities said.

Officer Mark Davis faces charges including official misconduct for carrying contraband, possession of controlled substances, and possession with intent to distribute, said Ray Weiss, a spokesman for the Essex County Prosecutor's Office.

Davis, 24, pleaded innocent to the charges at his arraignment Friday afternoon. He was being held at the jail on a \$30,000 personal recognizance bond, Weiss said.

An investigation began six weeks ago after inmates alleged that Davis would bring drugs into the jail for a fee. When he was arrested, authorities found three foil-wrapped packets they believed contained marijuana.

Davis has been a corrections officer since October 1994. He was suspended without pay Friday. He faces a maximum of 15 years in prison if convicted on all charges.

HAS OPRAH RUN OUT
OF TOPICS?

NEW YORK (AP)—Oprah Winfrey is wondering out loud how long her show will go on.

Winfrey, one of the most powerful media figures in the world, said she would like to continue her show—the highest-rated daytime talk show in television history—into the next century.

"It gets harder every day," Winfrey said in an interview published last week in the *Daily News*. "When you've done it for 12 years, you've covered every topic."

Winfrey said she would like to go 200 more shows by spring 1998 but wasn't sure if she would pursue another 200 shows, which would take her through the year 2000. "Do we go to 2000, which really means, do we have 400 more shows?" she asked. "Do we really have 400 more ways to speak to the country?"

King World has reportedly been in discussions with Roseanne about making her host of a five-day-a-week talk show.

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MAY 21 - MAY 27, 1997

CITY NEWS

Justice Department investigates police beating of 'Freaknik' motorist

ATLANTA—United States Justice Department officials assured the Southern Christian Leadership Conference May ninth that a "full investigation" is currently underway in the videotaped April 20th police beating of a motorist during "Freaknik."

The incident, which is also under internal investigation by Atlanta Police Chief Beverly Harward, apparently involved as many as five police

officers pummeling, manhandling and striking with a night stick motorist Timmy Sinclair of Atlanta, whom they insist ran a roadblock and struck an officer before the video recording began. The video, which lasted only a few seconds, did not show Sinclair striking back.

Dept. Assistant Attorney Gen. Jessica Ginsberg of the Criminal Section of Civil Rights Division in the

Atlanta region told SCLC General Counsel Roxanne Gregory May ninth that the FBI is currently conducting a "full investigation" of the incident and expects to release a preliminary report in 30 to 60 days. Then, based on the findings of the report, the Justice Department will decide whether any "prosecutable crimes" may have taken place in the violation of Sinclair's civil rights, Ginsberg said. Ginsberg's

statement indicates the case, which Harward said at a May first press conference was the subject of a "preliminary inquiry" by the FBI, has reached a new level.

SCLC President Joseph E. Lowery, who voiced "grave concern" May 1st that Atlanta was not prepared for a Rodney King like incident, said Friday that "We believe that Mr. Sinclair is entitled to an investigation

independent of the one being conducted by the Atlanta Police Department."

Ron Vincent, Mayor Bill Campbell's spokesperson, said Chief Harward had hoped he internal investigation would be finished by but blamed the delay on WSB-TV, which he said had not released a copy of the

see FREAKNIK/page 3

COURT FLUNKS GOV'S PLANS Supreme Court shoots down school funding plans



The 5-1 State Supreme Court ruling against Governor Whitman's new education standards was what was hoped for by these children participating in a March rally in Trenton on the day opening arguments began.

by Sonya Kimble-Ellis

In an historic decision that stirred opposing sides, the New Jersey State Supreme Court ruled Wednesday, May 14, against Governor Christie Whitman's School Funding Law, citing it as "unconstitutional." The law, which Whitman signed on December 20th of last year, was purportedly designed to create a system of curriculum standards that would be binding in public schools across the state.

Whitman's plan was to improve urban schools based on a core curriculum instead of on the funds they receive from the state. Her plan received opposition from the Association for Children of New Jersey, the League of Women Voters, the Black Ministers Council, the City of Plain-

field, the Newark Teacher's Union, the Education Law Center and several other associations and school boards.

At a March hearing on the new law, also held before the Supreme Court, David Sciarra, director of the Education Law Center, took the stance that the curriculum standard alone will not guarantee equal educational opportunities for poor students.

In the May 14th ruling, the court stated that the state's Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act (CEIFA) may someday result in the improvement of the educational opportunity available to all New Jersey public school students. We conclude, however, that the new act is incapable of assuring that there will be educational opportunity for children in the special needs districts for any time in the foreseeable future." The court additionally expressed that this

could only be accomplished with more money being promptly given to inner city schools.

As a result of the 5-1 ruling, the state must increase funding to 28 of its poorest districts by September. This will insure that the level of spending for each of those district's students will be raised from \$7,150 per student to nearly \$8,200, the amount spent per student in New Jersey's wealthiest schools. The Governor has pointed out that the state will be able to pay the extra required funding because its strong economy has largely increased state tax revenues.

"We are not going to revisit the funding for the other school districts," Whitman said. "We are not going to try to reallocate money away from middle class districts, as it were, in order to achieve the court's decision."

The Governor's case was argued

before the Supreme Court by the Attorney General's office. According to Rita Malley, a spokesperson for the Attorney General, the state will be required to seek an additional \$220 million for these schools. "We are disappointed with the ruling," Malley told City News. "The argument was really over parity and money. The court had no problem with the core curriculum standards." Whitman's law initially outlined \$138 million for the 28 districts.

In addition to boosting funding, the court addressed other concerns. It noted that the CEIFA failed to address the overwhelming problem of unsafe, overcrowded and dilapidated schools. The court stressed the point by citing the forty-nine New Jersey public schools that are one hundred years old or older. The ruling also pointed out the lack of libraries and media centers in most "special needs" schools, leaving those students with an unfair playing field when it comes to technology, science and art.

As a result, the state is now required to review facilities in the poorest districts and make recommendations on how improvements can be made. The state must also turn in a comprehensive study of the educational needs of these districts and devise a plan (including finances) to meet those needs.

Joseph Del Grosso, President of the Newark Teacher's Union, agrees wholeheartedly with the court's decision. In a statement issued to the press, Del Grosso congratulated and commended members of the Newark Teacher's Union for being advocates for the Newark's students. Union members sponsored rallies and testified at hearings in opposition to the bill.

In a press issued statement, Sciarra said, "This decision represents the beginning of a process to fundamentally reform the delivery of public education in our urban schools. We cannot afford yet another round of flawed funding mechanisms, inadequately developed programs, and ineffective policies."

Dr. Edward Verner, President of the Newark-Northern Jersey Committee of Black Church Men, said, "We're overjoyed. This is a momentous decision. The court acted fairly in reviewing the facts. The administration's

see WHITMAN FLUNKS/page 10

Milan wins, Schundler maybe

by Sonya Kimble-Ellis

In recent Mayoral elections, voters in Camden set precedence by electing 34-year-old Milton Milan as the first Hispanic mayor of the city. And in Jersey City, Bret Schundler may have claimed a narrow victory over Jeremiah Healy to secure a second term.

Unofficial post-election results showed Schundler winning by a narrow margin, rising just above the 50 percent of the votes plus one (1) needed to win. Schundler was just 22 votes above that percentile. Jersey City's city clerk's totals included results from 178 of the city's 179 voting districts—Schundler had 19,535 votes (50.0%) and Healy with 16,031 votes (41.06). On the day following the election, Healy declined to concede defeat and called for a recount. At press time, votes were still being counted.

Schundler first came into office as mayor in 1992 after winning a special election in November of that year. He replaced ousted Mayor Gerald McCann, who had been convicted of bank fraud charges not related to his job as mayor. Schundler completed McCann's term and went on to win a full term as mayor of Jersey City in 1993. Interestingly enough, McCann, having put his prison sentence behind him, also made it bid for mayor during this election.

Crime was a key issue during Schundler's bid for a second term primarily because of his involvement in the changing of local police working hours shifts. While Healy declared that the city had not been made safer during Schundler's past term, Schundler stated that federal crime statistics were down in all major areas.

Though Schundler was confronted with several issues during this campaign, campaign funding was "one of them. With Healy boasting a \$350,000 campaign and Jaime Vasquez using a meager \$20,000, Schundler had a sizeable \$1 million dollar treasury at his disposal.

Newly elected Camden Mayor Milan won a five-way race with 4,850 votes over 3,026 for incumbent Arnold Webster who came in second. Sixty-six year old Webster, who was a former schools superintendent, was seeking his second four-year term. Although the turnout among the city's voters was relatively low, the race had been touted as one of the most hotly contested run-offs in Camden's political history.

Milan, a city council president, says he has a three-part plan for rebuilding the economic development of the city. Part one, according to Milan, involves stabilizing business with a concentration on helping small businesses in Camden expand and with making loans available to them. Part two focuses on building industrial development parks, and in bringing in corporations to back office operations. The third part of Milan's economic revitalization deals with building and developing tourism at the waterfront, one of the city's prime tourist locations.

"I plan to give a shot in the arm to economic development in Camden and to create jobs," Milan said in an interview with City News. As the city's first Hispanic mayor, he plans to do

see MILAN WINS/page 10

Green to include Plainfield, Neptune as special districts in school funding

PLAINFIELD—Assemblyman Jerry Green on Thursday proposed legislation that would amend the definition of "Abbott districts" in the new school funding law to include the school districts of Plainfield and Neptune.

The state Supreme Court last week declared the Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996 (CEIFA) unconstitutional as it relates to "Abbott districts." The court ordered the state

to provide for parity between the wealthiest and poorest districts in New Jersey by September 1997.

"Plainfield received a special designation in prior school funding reform efforts because it was a school district in need," said Green. Unfortunately, the Governor's school funding proposal dropped Plainfield from the list of "special needs" districts. If enacted, my measures would prevent the children of Plainfield from falling through the cracks as the state contin-

ues its effort to provide equal educational opportunities."

In enacting the Quality Education Act (QEA) of 1990, the Legislature added Plainfield and Neptune to the court's definition of special needs districts. However, the Supreme Court's ruling included only the 28 districts specifically identified in the original Abbott vs. Burke case.

"Legislation will give Plainfield access to the equalization funds ordered in yesterday's court decision," said

Green. "We need to make sure that Plainfield and Neptune are restored to 'special needs' status."

The legislation is supported by Assemblyman Robert T. Smith, who is also co-sponsor of the measure, and Senator John Lynch.

Green explained that according to the Education Law Center, Plainfield spends approximately 85% of the wealthy district average. To achieve 100% parity, Plainfield would receive approximately \$8 million more.

Community Calendar

EVERY MONDAY

NEWARK—Employment Clinic at Essex County College. For more information, call 201-877-3395.

EVERY TUESDAY

NEWARK—Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral Businessperson's Midday Services. For more information, call 201-822-3505.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

NEWARK—Effective Parenting Skills Training at Essex County College. For more information, call 201-877-1895.

EVERY SATURDAY

PLAINFIELD—Indoor Flea Market. Downtown area. For more information, call 908-889-2683.

EVERY MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

NEWARK—Free Health Services by the City Dept. of Health and Human Services. For more information, call 201-733-7600.

EVERY MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY

NEWARK—Psychodynamic support group for women. For more information, call 201-877-1895.

EVERY TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

NEWARK—"Getting Started with the Computer" at Essex County College. For more information, call 201-877-1899.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

NEWARK—Municipal Council meeting at City Hall. For more information, call 201-733-3844.

THURSDAY, MAY 22

ELIZABETH—Crafts and stories for 3-5 year olds at the Library. For more information, call 908-353-4820.

SATURDAY, MAY 24

PLAINFIELD—Science & Math Expo at Plainfield High School. For more information, call 908-756-8366.

SUNDAY, MAY 25

HOLMDEL—Decoration Day Celebration at historic Longstreet Farm. For more information, call 908-242-4000.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

MOUNTAINSIDE—Fourth Annual Breakfast Meeting of Union County Alliance, at L'Affaire. For more information, call 908-527-2944.

THURSDAY, MAY 29

ELIZABETH—Crafts and stories for 3-5 year olds at the Library. For more information, call 908-353-4820.

NEWARK—Board of Adjustment meeting at City Hall. For more information, call 201-733-6333.

SATURDAY, MAY 31

GLEN RIDGE—Regional Technical Assistance Institute for the New Jersey Arts & Crafts 2000 at Glen Ridge Middle School. For more information, call 1-800-2ARTS99.

NEWARK—17th Annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon sponsored by the Concerned Black Nurses of Newark at the Airport Marriott. For more information, call 201-373-4020.

PLAINFIELD—12th Annual Plainfield Antique & Custom Car Show at Park-Madison. For more information, call 908-752-2431.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

PISCATAWAY—Walk for Community Health at Johnson Park. For more information, call 908-224-6970.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

LAWRENCEVILLE—Regional Technical Assistance Institute for the New Jersey Arts in Goals 2000 at Lawrence High School. For more information, call 1-800-2ARTS99.

SOMERVILLE—25th Annual Golf Outing at the Marlian Valley Country Club. For more information, call 908-725-1552.

TUESDAY, JUNE 17

WEST ORANGE—New Jersey Spinal Cord Injury Society (NJSCIS) will sponsor its Seventh Annual Spinal Cord Injury Retreat. At the Kessler Conference Center of Kessler Institute of Rehabilitation. For more information, call 201-243-8809.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

NORTH BRUNSWICK—"TechGRILL", a hands-on fun day at DeVry Institute, sponsored by the International Woman's Day Celebration. For more information, call 908-756-3836.



Lautenberg awards check to wire schools

PATERSON—Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ)—himself a product of Paterson public schools—today hosted a "NetDay" press conference at which a \$15,000 check was awarded by the Automatic Data Processing Foundation to wire all of the city's public schools to the Internet.

"This is a terrific day for Paterson," said Lautenberg. "You've heard of the bridge to the future. This is Paterson's on-ramp to the information superhighway. It will help ensure that we do not leave our cities and urban kids behind in the Information Revolution."

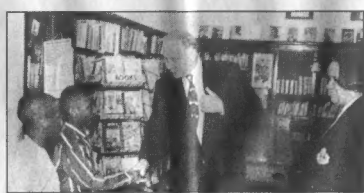
NetDay is a community volunteer effort to install all the basic wiring needed to make Paterson's schools Internet-ready. Paterson volunteers were in the field Saturday morning

wiring School #6 on 137 Carroll Street and the main Paterson Public Library building at 240 Broadway.

"This is an investment in our kids and an investment in the future," said U.S. Rep. William Pascrell Jr., another Paterson native also on hand at the press conference. "This will help us do our part to reach President Clinton's national goal of having every classroom in America hooked up to the Internet by the year 2000."

"I am proud of New Jersey when I know that virtually every Saturday somewhere in our state, a community has come together to wire a school so that its children can succeed and learn," said Lautenberg. "I want to thank the volunteers, ADP, Bell Atlantic and all the other New Jersey companies that have made this possible."

Back to his roots



DONALD M. KARP, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Broad National Bank in Newark, returns to his Newark grammar school alma mater, the Maple Avenue

School, to participate in the city's Principal For A Day program. At right is Mrs. Esther Wright, principal of the school. The program was established this year to focus attention on the progress being made by the Newark School System.

Sharpe James names Bessie M. Thomas '97 honorary senior citizen mayor for the Day



At a recent City Hall ceremony, Newark Mayor Sharpe James named Mrs. Bessie M. Thomas '1997 Honorary Senior Citizen Mayor for the Day.' L-R: Frank Bell assistant to the City Clerk; United States Representative Donald Payne; Councilman-Al Large Donald Tucker; Central Ward Councilman George Branch; Mrs. Thomas; Mayor James and William H. Thomas, Sr., Mrs. Thomas' husband.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority to host "Fashion Extravaganza" featuring Emily Miles Productions, Belle Meade models

The Pi Xi Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., will host a "Fashion Extravaganza" featuring the fashions of Emily Miles Productions and the Belle Meade Models on Saturday, June 7, 1997, 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at the Wayne Manor, 1515 Route 23 South, Wayne, New Jersey.

According to Teresa Owens-Carter, president, Pi Xi Omega, a per-

Weekly Horoscope

ARIES: (March 21-April 20)
Keeping secrets won't get you far this week. Your information could make or break a situation, so don't withhold what you know. There is a career move for you in the very near future, but it will be quite a large step to take, so embark with caution and optimism.

TAURUS: (April 21 - May 21)
You have a chance to create a solid foundation for future security. Be careful to avoid getting caught up in getting ahead at the expense of your peace of mind or creating havoc within your family. Don't jump to conclusions with romance, take it a step at a time.

GEMINI: (May 22 - June 21)
Make sure to not commit yourself to something that may tie you and hold you back. Don't stall in your decisions, just say you are not ready and leave it at that. There seems to be some tension between you and your mate, when you kiss and make up, talk honestly.

CANCER: (June 22 - July 23)
You seem to have a restless sort of irritability, which may just get you into trouble. It's important to keep your anger in check or you may find yourself cutting off those who are most important to you. Your current romantic partner may surprise you with lots of attention.

LEO: (July 24 - August 23)
You are doing a great job making finances stretch to their limit, but enough is enough, and something has got to go. If you have the authority to make these cuts, go for it. Changes at work may have you feeling like you have been overlooked, but that is far from true.

VIRGO: (August 24 - September 23)
A recent investment may prove much more lucrative than you've expected, but getting out early may not be such a bad idea. Be sure to take care of all the details though, however insignificant they may be. If you are feeling unmotivated, find a way to psyche yourself up.

LIBRA: (September 24 - October 23)
Juggle your funds to the best of your abilities, you might consider consolidating your debts so you have only one payment to deal with. Any home repairs now will probably be quite costly. Emphasize what you have in your life that brings you joy and satisfaction.

SCORPIO: (October 24 - November 23)
Your intuitive hunches are right on, so don't justify them away. Emotions which have been held in check for some time need to be released now. Allow yourself to express what you feel inside, striving to maintain a sense of proportion. Things aren't so bad.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 24 - December 21)
Any risks concerning money this week will be well worth the effort. Is there someone trying to hold you back under the false impression that it's for your own good? It's time to make those decisions on your own. If you are being manipulated by another, it's time to get it alone.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 20)
This week your passions may get the best of you and anger may erupt. If you are, at the very least, aware of this possibility, it can probably forestall any unpleasantness. If stress has gotten you down, take time for a rather childlike activity, helping you to relax.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 - February 19)
Rethink the reasons for your motivation in the workplace. You may need some alterations to previous plans. Listen to your inner voice for suggestions. Do the right thing when watching out for others, especially family members. What is it you really want out of life, and how are you going to get it?

PISCES: (February 20 - March 20)
Someone needs to smooth out the rough patches created by an argument, and you are best suited for the job. Following the rules may make you seem cold-hearted, so make a little compassion for those around you. Don't keep any secrets if the information can be well used.

IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: It's a good time to discuss any emotional issues with a significant other. Clear the air of any obstacles, and you may be quite surprised at how easily the conversation flows. Now that the lines of communication are open, make every effort to keep them this way.

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FREEDHOLD:

Highway 9 and Adams Road

HILLSIDE:

1100 Main Street

IRVINGTON:

1301 Springfield Avenue
Irvington, New Jersey 07033

LIVINGTON:

4020 Livingston Avenue
Livingston, New Jersey 07033

LONG BRANCH:

80 Broadway

MADISON:

100 Main Street

MILLBURN:

200 Main Street

NAVESINK:

Highway 26 and Valley Road

PLAINFIELD:

130 Westinghouse Avenue
Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

SHORT HILLS:

The Mall Shopping Center

SPRINGFIELD:

Highway 26 and Valley Road

SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS:

Highway 21 and Route 206

TOMES RIVER:

614 Peachtree Road, Bay Plaza
Other City Center

UNITED:

871-879 Broadway Avenue
United, New Jersey 07081

Newarker wins Ebony prize

Sandra L. West has received a one thousand dollar honorable mention citation from Ebony Magazine. The citation is for her short story "Boogie and Sara Leigh," entered in Ebony's Gertrude Johnson Williams Literary Contest.

Out of 650 entries from across the United States, the judges selected six stories. The top winning

story and the five honorable mentions will be published in the June 1997 edition of Ebony Magazine.

West, a Newark, New Jersey native and graduate of Rutgers University, was an English Instructor at Essex County College. The daughter of Willie and Ruby West of Newark, she currently lives in Richmond, Virginia.

Send comments, profiles, or letters to

144 North Ave., Plainfield, N.J. 07060

James Gee appointed associate fellow



TRENTON—James Gee of Trenton, N.J., has been appointed associate fellow with the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy at Thomas Edison State College.

In his role with the College, Gee will serve as staff to the New Jersey Urban Mayors Association Partnership and the Trenton Enterprise Coalition. He will be responsible for organizing, planning, and directing the Watson Institute's partnership with these groups and will assist with other partnership programs.

Gee brings over six years of public policy research and development experience to this position. Prior to joining Thomas Edison, Gee was a development specialist with the Renaissance Community Development Corporation in New Brunswick, N.J. Over the years, Gee has held a number of positions in the public forum, including legislative aid in the Office of Senator Ralph David Abernathy III in the Georgia State Senate in Atlanta, Ga., and as the chief of staff in the Office of Mayor Douglas H. Palmer. Gee earned his B.A. in political science from Morehouse College in Atlanta, where he served as president of the class of 1994. He is listed in the 1996 Who's Who in Young America and is a member of the American Heart Association Tobacco Control Board and the Georgia Leadership Forum.

NEW STUDY FOCUSES ON HIGH RISK STUDENTS

Going to school, being on time and doing one's course work can make academic success more attainable for those students who are considered at high risk. The compelling high school student if other negative influences exist, say researchers. This finding is examined in a new study of academic achievement of minority students who are at high risk of dropping out of school. The report appears in the April issue of American Psychological Association's (APA) Journal of Applied Psychology. "We found that not all minority students who were at risk for school problems because of being from a low income home or living with one parent, drop out of school or even suffer poor performance in school," said Dr. Jeremy D. Finn, Ph.D., the lead researcher and author of the study. "It seems that being involved in school out-weighs other factors that might impede an at-risk student. The resilient students got good grades throughout high school, scored reasonably well on achievement tests and graduated on time with their classmates independent of their family background and their own levels of esteem or beliefs about who is responsible for their success or failures." The study included 1,803 African-American and Hispanic students from Grade 8 through Grade 12.

SURVEY COMPARES AFRICAN-AMERICAN TV MOMS WITH REAL-LIFE MOTHERS

The feisty, successful and beautiful Claire Huxtable from "The Cosby Show" tops the charts as Black America's favorite TV mom, but she pales in comparison to those in real-life, according to a Mother's Day survey of 492 African Americans by Marjany greeting cards. In a landslide win, Claire Huxtable was chosen by 50 percent of African Americans as TV's ideal mom while other fictional characters such as Florida Evans from "Good Times" and Harriet Winslow from "Family Matter" came in at 16.6 percent and 13.1 percent, respectively. Although Mrs. Huxtable was identified as the model TV mom, 50.1 percent of respondents consider their mothers even more ideal than the fictional lawyer and other African-American mothers portrayed on TV.

AFRICA URGED TO BE WARY OF HIV TRIALS

Harare, Zimbabwe (PANA)—The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Zimbabwe, Graham Hill, has called on African states to be united in rejecting AIDS clinical trials based on skin color. In a keynote address to the fifth congress of the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists, Hill said there had to be justification why a particular country is used for such trials. "Clinical and drug trials have to be exposed to international scrutiny, and justification given as to why a country becomes a center for such HIV/AIDS trials," he said. Trials that only involved developing countries and none of the industrialized countries should be treated with caution, and their rationale fully justified before implementation, he said. "Africa should unite in rejecting, in the strongest terms, trials that are based on the principle of color, for in fact they do not seek knowledge, but seek to perpetuate the inequality of mankind, and proof of idiosyncratic self-expressing theories," Hill insisted. Clandestine research, uninformed consent, over-generalizations, useless drugs and "quacks" have become the order of the day, he continued. The old problem of Africa being the dumping ground of inferior quality goods and products once again rears its ugly head as most western-based institutions, pharmaceuticals, and individuals expose our people to research methods they don't even carry out in their own backyards," said Hill. "And, because of our desperate situation in terms of inadequate resources, facilities and technology we have often been forced to settle for sub-standard HIV/AIDS diagnostic equipment and materials that do not give us accurate results, and to enter into research collaborations whose intentions are dubious, and not necessarily honorable," Hill concluded.

Apartheid Police hit squad commander convicted of murder

DURBAN, South Africa (AP)—The self-confessed commander of an apartheid government hit-squad was convicted Thursday of murdering a human-rights lawyer.

Dirk Coetzee, whose revolver at his work for the white-minority government later led him to join the anti-apartheid struggle in exile, was found guilty in the 1981 killing of Griffiths Mxenge.

Two former security policemen were also convicted on the charges in the Durban High Court.

Mxenge was a member of President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress, which was outlawed at the time. He was found outside his home in Durban, stabbed 40 times and his throat slit.

Coetzee, 51, has applied for amnesty for this and other crimes to the

Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which is investigating abuses from both sides during the apartheid era. It has the power to grant amnesty if the perpetrators of a crime make a full confession and can demonstrate the crime was politically motivated.

Coetzee's saga began as a member and later commander of a special police group known as the Vlakplaat unit in the 1970s and 1980s which

murdered ANC activists.

He told the Truth Commission that his strict Afrikaans and religious upbringing helped him rationalize the murders and other crimes he committed to defend apartheid.

In 1989, he fled to join the ANC in exile after telling newspapers about Vlakplaat.

He returned in 1993 to work for the ANC and was a witness at the trial

of former police Col. Eugene de Kock, the highest ranking police official to be convicted of apartheid-era crimes.

He confessed to planning the murder of Mxenge, who Coetzee said had become a thorn in the side of security police.

"I don't expect (the family) to forgive me. I hope this will be an era of my life I can turn my back on and walk out," he said.

Motorist beaten at 'Freaknik'

Continued from page 1

videotape of the incident, which it purchased from a Freaknik participant who witnessed part of the incident. Vincent said Harvard would take several days to analyze the tape before commenting and making any decisions regarding status of the officers involved.

Sinclair and his attorney insist that he was trying to get to the drug store to buy medicine for his sick daughter, who was in the car, along with his wife, when the incident occurred. Although his driver's license showed a Backhead address, Sinclair says he was given permission to go through the roadblock by one set of officers and detained by another, despite having an insurance card that verified that he lived in the neighborhood. Police say Sinclair, who had an outstanding warrant for his arrest issued in another part of the state, struck the first blows, cursed the officers and tried to run them over. The defendant, who is charged with aggravated assault and two counts of obstructing an officer, says he did resist the officers, but did not strike them.

Sweet 'N Low establishes scholarship at New York University

BROOKLYN, N.Y.—Sweet'N Low® brand sugar substitute announces the establishment of the Sweet'N Low® Nutrition Scholarship at New York University.

The \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded to a minority student from a group under-represented at the University currently pursuing a degree in the field of Nutrition and Food Studies, and who demonstrates a strong commitment to the African-American community.

The scholarship, which will commence in the Fall semester, is part of Sweet'N Low's continuing commitment to educating consumers about the risks for developing diet-related chronic diseases, such as coronary heart disease, stroke, cancer or diabetes.

For example, Type II diabetes (non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, NIDDM), or adult-onset diabetes, is the fourth leading cause of chronic-disease death among African-Americans. "According to the American Diabetes Association, approximately 2.6 million African-Americans have diabetes and do not even know it," said Marvin E. Eisenstadt, president of Sweet'N Low. "The establishment of the scholarship at NYU will help us to inform African-Americans about their increased risk for developing this and other diet-related diseases." All eligible students, including undergraduates, masters and doctoral students currently enrolled or entering the School of Education's Department of Nutrition and Food Studies, will be considered for the award. The recipient will be selected by a faculty committee. For more information call 212-998-5580.

To the 80 million of you who volunteered time and money last year, thanks for all you've given. Imagine what more could do. Call 1-800-55-GIVE 5. It's what in the world you can do.



Farrakhan outlines peace plan for rappers

CHICAGO (AP)—Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan has released preliminary details of a plan to end violent rivalries between rap music performers.

Farrakhan, a number of rappers, some representatives of the recording industry and members of the clergy met at a South Side restaurant Wednesday for what he billed as the Second National Hip-Hop and Rap Summit. The first summit was held April 3.

The summits were prompted by the recent unsolved slayings of rappers Tupac Shakur and The Notori-

ous B.I.G., whose real name was Christopher Wallace, and by the longstanding rivalry between performers of East Coast and West Coast rap.

"There has been no advancement in history that has come without the shedding of blood," Farrakhan said. He went on to say that more than enough blood has been shed—the time for peace has come.

Farrakhan said the rappers who attended the summit plan a joint "Hip Hop & Rap Peace" album to be released on Oct. 16, the second anniversary of the Million Man March he led in Washington.

He also said he hopes to coordinate a National Peace Tour of rap musicians to begin some time this

fall.

At the news conference to announce the plans, Farrakhan was joined by rappers Ice Cube, Doug E. Fresh, and the Boo Yaa Tribe.

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Elementary students of Plainfield can have fun with the Plainfield Fire Division training and challenge. Students simply have to be the first elementary school student to collect at least one of each of the trading cards shown on the display poster located in your school and to be the winner. Relatives of Plainfield firefighters are ineligible. The winner of the trading card challenge will be presented with a brand new bicycle. Students should check the poster in their school, then simply ask the firefighter for his trading card when they see him around town. Only one prize will be awarded and the decision of the judges is final. For more information contact Fire Inspector Fleming at fire headquarters (908)753-3446.

STUDENTS CREATE THEIR OWN VILLAGE

NEWARK, N.J.—West Kinney Alternative High School students will share their interpretation of "It Takes An Entire Village to Raise A Child" with parents, school staff and city officials during a program which will highlight the accomplishments of students and teachers at the school. The program, which culminates a year of activity, will be held Friday, May 30, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Students representing grades nine to 12 will present a stage production which they wrote and developed around the "Entire Village" theme. At a ribbon-cutting ceremony, the students will unveil a seven-foot high hut, decorated with brightly colored murals painted by the students. The hut is located in the school's atrium and was designed to symbolize the theme of unity and cooperation that exists between students and teachers. The students were assisted by Peter Fisher, a teacher and artist.

Project coordinator Deborah Mitchell De-Barry said this program marks the seventh year student council members have selected a theme to guide their classroom projects. "This year we selected the African proverb, 'It Takes An Entire Village To Raise A Child,' because it reflects the responsibility and cooperation required of the government and the community to ensure the success of our children," De-Barry said. Among the invited guests expected to participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony are Mayor Sharpe James, Council President Donald M. Menendez, Mayor-elect Al. Large Midland, Councilor George Branch, West Kinney Alternative High School is dedicated to educating at risk and disaffected students in the city of Newark. The school is located at 301 West Kinney Street.

SPECIAL THEMED SCHOOL TO BE DEDICATED TO RON BROWN

The Plainfield Public Schools will dedicate a new middle school to the late U.S. Commerce Secretary, Ronald H. Brown. Mr. Brown's son, and members of the family will attend the dedication and participate in a tribute to the late commerce secretary. The new themed school will be called the Ronald H. Brown School of Global Issues. The dedication will be May 29, 1997 at 6 p.m. at the Masson Middle School Auditorium, 920 E. Seventh Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060.

The Plainfield school district will open three themed middle schools of choice in the spring of 1997 at the start of the new school year. The schools will be housed within the district's two existing middle schools. The school will give parents and children a choice in the educational program available to them. By September 1998, the entire middle school program in Plainfield will be organized into a 6th through 8th grade system of schools within schools.

Newark teachers seek justice in fraud implication

by Sonya Kimble-Elis

A federal lawsuit has been filed by twenty Newark teachers and school employees who have been implicated, however, Newark school district employees who are the only individuals who have been suspended from their jobs without pay. According to reports, 200 conspirators in total shared in the profits. Nearly fifty Newark educators and school employees, in all, were suspended from their positions.

ordered to make restitution and is currently serving a 1 1/2 year prison sentence.

Of the 130 educators, school board and non-instructional employees in the nine districts who have been implicated, Newark school district employees who are the only individuals who have been suspended from their jobs without pay. According to reports, 200 conspirators in total shared in the profits. Nearly fifty Newark educators and school employees, in all, were suspended from their positions.

The claim's suit, filed March 21st, alleges the suspensions were based on allegations and discrimination, not on fact, and are racially biased in nature. Named in the suit are the Newark School District, Superintendent Beverly Hall, a service employees union local and the Newark Teachers' Union.

"The suspensions lack uniformity," says Elough Butler, an educational media specialist at the Harold Wilson Middle School, who is one of the twenty employees who have filed

a federal lawsuit. "Superintendent Beverly Hall should have called us in for a consult. Rather than listen to us, the district simply past judgment. They should have looked at what the other districts were doing."

According to E.J. Miranda, a Newark school district spokesman, individuals other than teachers (non-instructional staff) were given in-house hearings, and all instructional staff are either awaiting hearings or have requested that their hearings be postponed until after the trial. "The

district has also filed tenure charges with the State Education Commissioner for their dismissal," Miranda told City News.

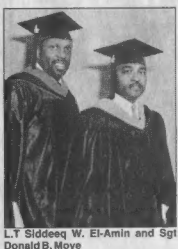
Butler says there were three sets of suspensions. The employees who were part of the first group of suspensions, held last October, were given two weeks pay and their names were printed in the Star Ledger. The second set of suspensions took place in November, with employees being

NEWARK TEACHERS SEEK JUSTICE/page 10



Volunteers and Sue Brown plant flowers in Park Meadows park to help in the beautification of Plainfield.

Two of Plainfield's finest earn graduate degrees



Lt. Siddeeq W. El-Amin and Sgt. Donald B. Moye

PLAINFIELD—Two of Plainfield's Police Division's supervisors will receive their graduate degrees one day apart this month. Lt. Siddeeq W. El-Amin and Sgt. Donald B. Moye will each graduate, respectively, from Rutgers University and New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, New Jersey on May 22, and 23, 1997.

Lt. El-Amin enrolled in the accredited Rutgers Executive MPA Program tailored especially to meet the needs of select, veteran public managers. The program provides familiarity with the complex skills, both traditional and nontraditional, necessary to prepare a seasoned manager for executive level leadership. State and municipal employees attend classes Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings and a week's residency during the summers. The program is completed in two years. Sgt. Moye enrolled in the NJIT Executive Program in the School of Management. This is an accredited 14-month program designed to meet the needs of executives and their employees. They have designed it to prepare and develop our

future business leaders to meet the needs and issues of tomorrow's technology-driven, global business environment.

Both El-Amin and Moye held their undergraduate work at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, with El-Amin graduating in 1968 and Moye in 1976. Both have worked in education, El-Amin teaching and coaching at Colonia High School and Moye teaching at Hubbard Middle School in Plainfield. Lt. El-Amin continued in education working in the EOP Program at Rutgers from 1971 to 1975 and later as Executive Director for the New Jersey Black Social Workers Association. Sgt. Moye worked in Plainfield City Hall's Budget Division from 1979 to 1980. Both careers joined on September 23, 1980 started their police in the City Hall Rotunda where they were both sworn in as Plainfield Police Officers by Mayor Paul J. O'Keefe. Fourteen recruits joined the Plainfield Police Division with El-Amin and Moye in 1980 and only six still remain today.

Since joining the Police Division, both have experienced similar degrees of growth together. The assigned both El-Amin and Moye to the Criminal Investigation Bureau in 1982. El-Amin received the Gold Detective Badge in 1983 and Moye in 1984. Mayor Rick Taylor promoted El-Amin to the Rank of Sergeant January 1989 and they promoted Moye in April 1993. Mayor Mark Fary in May 1994 appointed El-Amin Director of Public Affairs & Safety for Plainfield and he served in that capacity until rejoining to the Police Division with a promotion to the Rank of Lieutenant on October 26, 1995. Moye is currently on the promotional list for Lieutenant.

Both have worked together as Detectives in the General Assignment Section and in the Youth Section as Supervisors. Both have served as President of the Union County Juvenile Officers Association. El-Amin from 1990 to 1992 and Moye from 1996 to the present. Moye's term expires June 1998.

Bond sales completed Plainfield

PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield Board of Education went to the bond market on April 29 through the Union County Improvement Authority to raise \$33.9 million for capital improvements. Last October voters approved a referendum to raise the funds to renovate, upgrade and improve facilities in the school district.

"The Improvement Authority was able to price the bonds quickly to take advantage of the first bond market rally of significance since interest rates were increased last month," said Gary Ottmann, business manager of the district and secretary of the Plainfield Board of Education.

Plainfield received four attractive bids, Ottmann said. The winning bid went to Financial Guaranty Insurance Company (FGIC). The bonds were sold at a premium so that the interest will pay more than the face value of the bond. As a result, Plainfield was able to raise the entire \$33.9

million plus \$33,631.20 in premiums.

"The premiums will be used to pay the first interest payment on the bonds. Also, the Board of Education has had no ongoing debt because it will be able to use the premium to pay for these expenses," Ottmann said.

Renovations and improvements will begin this summer in three elementary schools, Cook, Jefferson and Woodland.

The renovations will include the two middle schools—Hubbard and Masson Schools—which will be done in two phases, starting this summer of completed in 1998. Beginning next September, the first three middle schools of choice will be launched. They include the CASH School for Careers in the Arts, Sciences and Humanities, the PATCHE School for the performing arts and the Ronald H. Brown School of Global Issues.

Schering-Plough hosts women's group

KENILWORTH—Schering-Plough Corp. recently hosted the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW), Railway Section "Fund for the Future" reception at its facility here.

An Tripp of KISS-FM radio was the program's keynote speaker. Essex County Freeholder Sheila Oliver emceed the event.

The reception was part of a fund-raising and membership drive for the chapter. A major goal of the NCNW is to continue the work of the National Centers for African American Women and the Dorothy I. Height Leadership Institute in Washington, D.C., as well as fund the purchase of the building they are located in.

"We are pleased to host such an important community group as The National Council of Negro Women," said Joseph Starkey, manager of community affairs at Schering-Plough. "For more than 60 years, the NCNW has been an active voice in civic and social endeavors and we are happy to



Ann Tripp

help them work toward their goal of funding a new headquarters."

The NCNW provides services for day care centers, schools and agencies, as well as funds programs addressing teen pregnancy, drug abuse, AIDS, employment and hunger. The Railway chapter of NCNW has organized and sponsored breast cancer, teen awareness, after school tutoring and Adopt-A-Senior Citizen programs.

Railway Section headquarters are located at the Second Baptist Church, 378 E. Milton Avenue, Rahway. Meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month except for June, July and August.

Schering-Plough Corporation is a research-based company engaged in the discovery, development, manufacturing and marketing of pharmaceuticals and health care products worldwide. Schering-Plough employs approximately 20,000 people worldwide, including some 5,000 in New Jersey.

Smith million dollar bill passes Senate

ASBURY PARK—Legislation sponsored by Assemblyman Tom Smith that would allow for more than \$12 million for renovations and repairs to the Asbury Park Convention Hall and Paramount Theater has been approved by the Senate.

"This historic landmark is in dire need of essential repairs and maintenance," said Smith, R-Monmouth. "Preservation New Jersey, the Asbury Park Convention Hall as one of the 10 Most Endangered Historic Sites in our state, which is a testament to the need for this project. The convention hall recently benefited from the restoration and reopening of the Paramount Theater, but more work is needed in order to restore its original grandeur."

Smith said the convention hall was built between 1928 and 1930 as part of an ambitious effort to establish Asbury Park as the preeminent urban resort along the Jersey Shore.

"The Asbury Park Convention Hall is an important part of the city's past and hopefully a part of its future," Smith added. "These funds will help continue the process of repairing and preserving one of the most prominent buildings along the New Jersey coast."

The \$12 million appropriation would fund restoration of the water tower, a prominent architectural feature capping the structure, replacement of about 100 windows surrounding the exhibition hall, re-plastering

and painting of the theater and exhibition hall, and upgrading the theater's interior features.

Smith's bill would appropriate the funds from the Green Acres, Clean Water, Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 1992.

"If we were to let New Jersey's

historic past slip away, we will have denied our children and grandchildren the opportunity to learn about our state's important historic sites, like the Asbury Park Convention Hall," Smith said. The legislation, A-385, now heads to the Governor for consideration.

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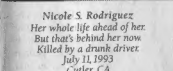
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July 11, 1993
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FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.

A reminder from

CITY NEWS

during this festive season.

Business Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

NEWARK—Business Breakfast Series and Monthly Meeting sponsored by Partners in Education & Quality, Inc. At the Newark Club. For more information, call 201-242-6237.

THURSDAY, MAY 22

NEW YORK—Seminar, "Millennial Fever," sponsored by the Direct Marketing Association. For more information, call 212-768-7277, ext. 1696.

BRIDGEWATER—Forum, "Recover Those Lost Receivables!" at Jack O'Connor Quality Beef & Seafood Restaurant. For more information, call 908-704-0888.

NEWARK—US Small Business Administration Annual Awards Luncheon, hosted by the Regional Business Partnership. At the Newark Airport Marriott Hotel. For more information, call 201-242-8237.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

JERSEY CITY—Seminar for Financial and Technical Assistance for Small Business. For more information, call 908-714-2107.

NEW YORK—Marketing & Business Expo '97. For more information, call 212-522-7632.

MONDAY, JUNE 2

BASKING RIDGE—Somerset Culinary Invitational at the Odeon Mall. For more information, call 908-725-1552.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

NEPTUNE—RBP Small Business Golf Outing at the Jumping Brook Country Club. For more information, call 201-242-6237 ext. 222.

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

NEW YORK—Annual Forum, "Working Partnerships Entering the 21st Century: The Small Contractor and the Workforce," sponsored by the Regional Alliance for Small Contractors. At the Marriott World Trade Center. For more information, call 212-435-6185.

Statisticians back U.S. Government Census sampling plan

By Randolph E. Schmid
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—Statisticians and sociologists, American Indians and Latinos, blacks and Asians gathered outside Congress Tuesday to defend the U.S. government's plans for the 2000 census.

The plans to use statistical sampling to account for people the census is unable to reach have been attacked by conservatives in Congress, who would prefer an old-fashioned head count.

"It's unfortunate that, at a time when we have the most sophisticated means of counting... we may be denied that opportunity," said Rep. Xavier Becerra, a Democrat, at a news conference.

The census plan including sampling was developed by the National Academy of Sciences in an effort to improve on the 1990 count, which missed 1.6 percent of the population, far worse than the 1 percent not counted a decade earlier. It is also expected to save money, compared with trying to contact every person in the country.

But even though no census has

ever counted everyone, conservatives are pressing the bureau to stick with traditional methods of mail and personal visits.

"We must physically count each and every American," insisted the letter to Census Director Martha Farnsworth from House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Majority Leader Dick Armey, and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott and Assistant Majority Leader Don Nickles, all Republicans.

"Sampling in the census is necessary to overcome the persistent undercount of poor and minority communities, and to ensure a fair and ac-

curate outcome," said Becerra, chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

"Let's take the politics out of the census," said Rep. Danny K. Davis, a Democrat. "The real issue is how to get the most accurate count. The answer is sampling."

Also joining in the news conference in support of sampling were representatives of the American Statistical Association, American Sociological Association, Japanese-American Citizens League, Organization of Chinese Americans, National League of Cities, National Conference of Mayors and National Congress of Ameri-

can Indians.

The plan for 2000 census calls for contacting 90 percent of the households in each census tract—an area of several square blocks. This could be done by mail questionnaire, telephone call or personal visit.

In areas where at least 90 percent of the households respond to the initial mailing, census workers would visit one in 100 randomly selected households and estimate the characteristics of those not contacted.

Sales growth of top black-owned business slows

By Maggie Jackson
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—The growth of black-owned businesses has slowed, as some worry about a backlash against affirmative-action programs.

Sales for the top black-owned companies rose 7.75 percent to \$14.1 billion last year, Black Enterprise magazine reported Monday.

It's a five straight year of growth but a decline from the previous year's 11.8 percent expansion rate, the magazine noted in releasing its 25th annual listing of the top 100 black-owned industrial and service firms and top 100 auto dealerships.

"A lot of the hostile business environment we're seeing is due to the pullback of affirmative action and minority set-aside programs, which affect smaller businesses to a larger extent," said managing editor Matthew Scott.

Last week, for example, the Clinton administration announced proposals to curb race-based preferences for some minority businesses in awarding \$200 billion in federal contracts.

"As an African-American businessman who believes it's a very important part of our economy to grow all of our businesses, I'm concerned that this is a very shortsighted strategy," said Roy Terry, chief executive officer of Terry Manu-

facturing Co. of Roanoke, Ala.

The disadvantages that African-American companies suffered go back many years, but will likely remain years to rectify that," said Terry, whose apparel-making company ranks 62nd on the Black Enterprise list with \$34 million in sales.

Scott said sales in the Fortune 500 and Forbes 500 also declined, but at a less drastic rate. He said downsizing and other cost-cutting efforts by those companies means less opportunity for smaller businesses, and most of the country's 621,000 black-owned businesses are small.

But Scott said the magazine is optimistic.

"We fully expect that the firms will find new ways to increase their revenues," he said.

Topping the Black Enterprise list for a second year was TLC Beatrice

International Holdings Inc., a New York-based food processor and distributor that reported \$2.23 billion in sales.

Johnson Publishing Co. of Chicago ranked second with \$325.7 million in sales and Philadelphia Coca-Cola Bottling Co. ranked third with \$325 million in sales.

Mel Farr Automotive Group of Oak Park, Mich. took the top ranking among auto dealers, which is listed separately. It had sales of \$503 million.

Michigan has the most businesses on the combined listing with 24, followed by New York (17), Illinois (16), Texas (15) and California (14).

To qualify for the list, a company must have been fully operational in 1996 and at least 51 percent black-owned. It must manufacture or own the product it sells or provide industrial or consumer services.

A Tribute for a Living Legend— Dr. Arthur A. Fletcher

By Harry C. Alford

There are heroes and then there are heroes. Some are genuine and many are spin artists who master in "sound bite" leadership—much exposure but never much substance or gain when you sum it all up. Dr. Arthur A. Fletcher is truly a genuine hero. He is a man who has served his entire life working for the betterment of his people. This has come at terrible costs but his straight and narrow path have remained constant. At 72 years of age, he still works constantly, despite three heart surgeries and sugar diabetes. God has defined his path on a mission and will use him up to the fullest.

Art Fletcher is the son of a Buffalo Soldier. His father's career took him to places such as Kansas, Arizona and Oklahoma during his youth. When he was in the eighth grade, he had the opportunity to hear, during a school assembly, the great Mary McLeod Bethune. She mesmerized him while she made the statement to the children: "One of you in this assembly will some day give advice to presidents." Little did he know at the time that it would be himself.

During World War II he served in the elite Black tank units under General Patten. These brave brothers were instrumental in our victory over the Nazis. Art soon learned that serving bravely in World War II meant very little and did not equate to full citizenship if you were Black in this country. Still, he pressed on.

Art was an early pioneer in the Civil Rights Struggle. He was one of the original plaintiffs in the famous Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education. This is the case that Thurgood Marshall took to the Supreme Court and brought legal integration to our school systems and, thus, giving birth to a movement that would change the society of this great nation. Art the only survivor of the original nine, has never stopped being in the struggle.

He did find time to take advantage of his athletic skills in a college education (the world later got a J.D. and a Ph.D. Also, he was the first Black to play football for the old Baltimore Colts. He also spent time playing a few years for the Rams.

Black's fighting for freedom often met tragedy and Art is no exception.

His first wife suffered by the challenges and the disgusting discrimination of the 1950's committed suicide. She jumped off the San Francisco Golden Gate Bridge leaving Art with their five children. He pressed on and God eventually sent him the lovely Bernice Fletcher and their marriage is approaching thirty beautiful years. Unlike many of us who serve under US Presidents, Art took advantage of it for furthering the status of his people. As Assistant Secretary of Labor, under Nixon, Art authored the present Day affirmative action laws. The Civil Rights Act was useless until we had something to "drive it." Art gave us the tools through some serious advocacy and political savvy.

We must note that he received no support from the "traditional" civil rights groups during the establishment of affirmative action. They would not even voice support or testify during the congressional hearings while he was busy making it a reality. We put our politics before our race. Art was a Republican, and so they would not speak on behalf of affirmative action. Strange world, isn't it?

Art also integrated the trade unions through the revision of The Philadelphia Plan. For this a contract on his life was issued by organized labor. He spent two years under the close protection of the Secret Service. Also, he introduced "equal pay for equal work," which gave women their rightful place in the national work force.

As President of the United Negro College Fund, he coined the phrase, "It mine is a terrible thing to waste." The brand most successful slogan in the history of fundraising. Despite this, the "gate keeper" had him fired for being too aggressive. That aggressiveness carried through his years as Chairman of the US Civil Rights Commission. One day, a UPS carrier delivered a box of cassette tapes to his door. The tapes contained recordings of speeches and phone conversations he has during the previous months. It was a message—"We are watching you and we are going to get you." Our good FBI serving the needs of the people—ha!

Every Black, every woman and all people of color owe Dr. Fletcher for the lessons we have made over the last 50 years. He is truly a warrior who has valiantly served the people. We are going to honor the Great American during the annual conference of the National Black Chamber of Commerce, August 1. Keynoting that evening will be another great living legend, Honorable Martin Luther King III and astronaut Dr. Mae Jemison. Finally, this man is going to get just recognition for all his accomplishments.

Let us honor our heroes before they ascend to Heaven.

Harry C. Alford is president and CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce.

Jackson Lobbies big three

CHICAGO (AP)—The Rev. Jesse Jackson says his Rainbow/PUSH Coalition will lobby the Big Three automakers on behalf of minority-owned dealerships.

The civil rights leader also said Monday the organization would use its new status as a shareholder in the Big Three to fight against what he sees as the systematic elimination of such dealerships.

"The automakers were supposed to be working toward parity for black and brown-owned dealerships, but instead, these dealerships are facing elimination," Jackson said in a telephone interview.

He said minorities often are the last people to get car dealerships, so they are the first to have their businesses closed during industry cutbacks.

"In the combined population of car buyers, you find that more than 30 percent are members of minority groups, but minority group members have less than 5 percent of domestic dealerships," Jackson said.

Jackson said minorities have even more difficulty in obtaining dealerships for imported vehicles. He plans to travel to Germany and Japan this summer to discuss the problem with automakers there.

"There are about 10,500 imported car dealerships in the country, and only 21 of them are owned by African-Americans," Jackson said. "And precious few are owned by Hispanics or Asians."

Jackson proposed that General Motors, Ford and Chrysler agree to a temporary moratorium on the closing of minority-owned dealerships until Rainbow/PUSH officials can meet with the automakers.

Rainbow/PUSH purchased stock in each of the Big Three earlier this month, which will permit Jackson to attend the companies' shareholder meetings, he said.

Messages were left Monday for spokespeople at Ford, GM and Chrysler.

Rainbow/PUSH's action was in response to complaints by the National Association of Minority Auto Dealers that the automakers were unwilling to assist such dealers with subsidies.

The dealers also complained that they were regularly overstocked with slow-selling models, understocked with hot-selling models, and being charged exorbitant interest on vehicles remaining in the dealership floors.

"In addition, there are some industry trends that are most disturbing," Jackson said.

He cited the recently announced experiment in which Ford will begin buying back dealerships and selling cars directly to the public, putting it in competition with the remaining independently owned dealerships.

Jackson said there also could be competitive pressure on small dealerships from the growing number of publicly traded car superstores, such as AutoNation USA, the brainchild of H. Wayne Huizenga, the Blockbuster video entrepreneur.

The mega-dealerships are a significant departure from the traditional outdoor car lots.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

NEW YORK—Hiram Bullock at Manny's Car Wash. For more information, call 212-368-8155.

PLAINFIELD—Spring Concert and Blood Pressure Screening. For more information, call 908-753-3648.

PLAINFIELD—Pot Luck Dinner with Skits and Song. For more information, call 908-753-3192.

PLAINFIELD—Spring Concerts. For more information, call 908-753-3344/3237.

THURSDAY, MAY 22

NEW YORK—Walter "Wolfman" Washington at Manny's Car Wash. For more information, call 212-368-8155.

DELMAR—Better off Dead at Jason's Jazz & Blues Niteclub. For more information, call 908-681-1416.

PLAINFIELD—Spring Concert. For more information, call 908-753-3326.

FRIDAY, MAY 23

NEW YORK—Slapwax Johnson and the Titans at Manny's Car Wash. For more information, call 212-368-8155.

DELMAR—Jack Hobart/Rogues on the Run at Jason's Jazz & Blues Niteclub. For more information, call 908-681-1416.

BROOKLYN—Festival celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Dariofores at the Brooklyn Academy of Music Opera House. For more information, call 718-636-4129.

SATURDAY, MAY 24

NEW YORK—Roy Perry Blues Band at Manny's Car Wash. For more information, call 212-368-8155.

BUDD LAKE—Muzikfest '97 in Vasa Park. For more information, call 201-691-5383.

SAYERVILLE—London Wainwright at the Sayerville Community Center. For more information, call 908-727-3000.

DELMAR—Billy Hackett & the Fairlains at Jason's Jazz & Blues Niteclub. For more information, call 908-681-1416.

SUNDAY, MAY 25

ORANGE—"Showcase" Produced by the Fashion Network's Shelley Davis and Tonika Hatcher at Rozau's Manor. For more information, call 201-375-1587.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

PLAINFIELD—Spring Concerts. For more information, call 908-753-3348.

PLAINFIELD—Welfare Reform Forum. For more information, call 908-753-3243.

THURSDAY, MAY 29

DELMAR—Calligyn Blues Band at Jason's Jazz & Blues Niteclub. For more information, call 908-681-1416.

FRIDAY, MAY 30

NEW BRUNSWICK—Rosemary Cloney at the State Theatre. For more information, call 1-800-ALLEGRIO.

DELMAR—Greg Pizzolo from Roomful of Blues at Jason's Jazz & Blues Niteclub. For more information, call 908-681-1416.

PLAINFIELD—"SUNBATHER" Family Summit and Celebration. For more information, call 908-753-3243/3676.

SATURDAY, MAY 31

RED BANK—Rosemary Cloney at the Count Basie Theatre. For more information, call 1-800-ALLEGRIO.

JAMAICA, QUEENS—"A Day in Celebration of the Environment and Preservation of Roy Wilkins Park," sponsored by WWF. For more information, call 718-335-1600.

ORANGE—CFN Band at Rozau's Manor. For more information, call 201-678-0484.

SAYERVILLE—Gato Barbieri at Club Bene. For more information, call 908-727-3000.

DELMAR—The Fine & Texas Horns at Jason's Jazz & Blues Niteclub. For more information, call 908-681-1416.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

PLAINFIELD—Habitat for Humanity is sponsoring a benefit concert to sponsor the Greater Plainfield Chapter of Habitat for Humanity at the Crescent Ave. Presbyterian Church. For more information, call 908-287-1200, ext. 2259.

NEWARK—Rosemary Cloney at Symphony Hall. For more information, call 1-800-ALLEGRIO.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

NEWARK—Randy Jones & Special Edition at PSEAG's Robert L. Smith Amphitheater. For more information, call 201-430-7000.

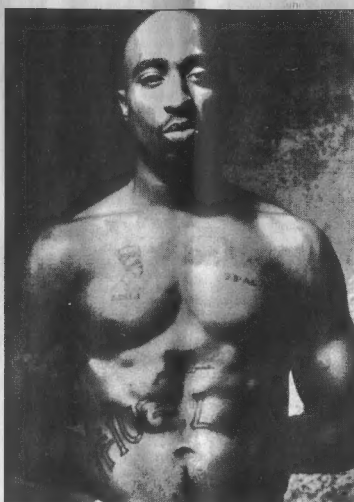
TUESDAY, JUNE 3-17

CRANFORD—New courses providing critical reviews of film. For more information, call Union County College at 908-709-7600.

Tupac film hits video stores

The life and times of Tupac Shakur will be immortalized on several film and video projects this year. The first to lead the pack is *Thug* immortal, a portrait of Shakur that hit video stores May 18th. The film, directed by George Ten, depicts Tupac the poet, actor and recording artist.

Ten's film utilizes rare home videos and interviews with Tupac's childhood friends to show a side of the performer the public rarely saw. Tan's intent was to stay far away from the "image" created by the rapper but exploited by the media. Tan's previous films include *Top Fighter* and *Death by Misadventure*, a documentary on the career of Bruce Lee and his son, Brandon.



Eighth annual Genesis Festival begins May 21 at Crossroads

NEW BRUNSWICK—Crossroads Theatre in New Brunswick, New Jersey will present its eighth annual Genesis Festival. A Celebration of New Voices in African American Theatre, May 21-25 at the Theatre located at 1 Livingston Avenue.

Genesis '97 features five talented playwrights, both veterans and newcomers including acclaimed actress Regina Taylor of television's "I'll Fly Away," poet Dolores Kendrick and a favorite of Crossroads' audiences, Leslie Lee.

Five new plays will be performed in staged readings by actors such as Suzanne Douglass of the TV show "Parent-hood," Steven Ward of the hit show "Five Guys Named Moe" and Vivian Reid from "Bubbling Brown Sugar," Broadway and star of Crossroads' "Coming of the Hurricane." Roger Robinson, Phyllis Yvonne Stickney from Crossroads' "The Amen Corner" and many others.

For the playwright, the festival offers a clarifying experience as their scripts are read aloud, some for the very first time, by professional actors under a director's guidance. Crossroads' audiences have the unique opportunity, during the post-show discussions, to engage in a dialogue with the writer, director, dramaturg and actors and become a key part of the script development process.

This year's festival is dedicated to Crossroads' veteran Director of Play Development, Sydne Mahone, who with Artistic Director Ricardo Khan, created and organized the first festival for the 1989-90 season and has spearheaded every festival since. Ms. Mahone will be leaving, Crossroads after this season to pursue a literary

career. Her first project will be to edit the memoirs of Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis.

Genesis Festivals offer a "sneak preview" to audiences of potential future mainstream productions at Crossroads. Plays first offered as Genesis readings include "The Darker Face of the Earth" by former U.S. Poet Laureate Rita Dove, "The Screened-In Porch" by Marian X. Kathleen McGhee Anderson's "Mothers," and Ruby Dee's "The Disappearance." Artists whose work has been showcased include Anna Devere Smith, Eugene Lee, the late Daxia Valdez from Saturday Night Live, Royce Ormond, Joe Morton, Avery Brooks, Sarah Dash and Omar Epps.

Genesis '97 is intended to make the words live off the page, says Artistic Director Ricardo Khan. The line-up includes comedies, dramas as well as plays with music. The Festival opens with Regina Taylor's "Oo-Blah-Dee" directed by Shelly Jo Finney in "Oo-Blah-Dee" on Saturday Night Live. The line-up includes comedies, dramas as well as plays with music. The Festival opens with Regina Taylor's "Oo-Blah-Dee" directed by Shelly Jo Finney in "Oo-Blah-Dee" on Saturday Night Live.

Playwright Leslie Lee returns to Crossroads with his script "Spirit North," directed by Harold Scott Lee. The author of "The Rabbit Foot" and "Black Eagle" both of which became important multi-stage productions at

the company. "Spirit North explores the complex issue of race loyalty when a Black lawyer defends a young Black man accused of murdering a White man. "Spirit North" will be read 8pm on Thursday, May 22.

Science fiction comes to Crossroads as Jake-Ani Jones' "(U)nder (F)rank (O)bservation" is offered at the festival, Friday May 21 at 8pm. Directed by Peter Francis James, this is the story of a young reporter covering Blacks on Wall Street for a Harlem newspaper. The reporter is sent to interview a broker and discovers that he is a Wall Street dropout-turned-rapper who performs in the city's subways and may have alien connections.

"The Story of My Father," a play with music by Jason King and directed by Harold Scott, will be read Saturday, May 24 at 8pm. The play features Motown pop hits from the 1970's made famous by such artists as The Temptations, Marvin Gaye and The Stylistics. Set in Brooklyn during the 1980's, a teenage boy seeks escape from the battles with his father through dreams of having a family musical group like the Jackson Five.

The festival closes with a production filled with music and dance by Saundra McClain newly formed company, Troupe New York. "The Women of Plums" is based on a book of poems by Dolores Kendrick and directed by McClain, with original music by Wall Matthews and choreography by Dyane Harvey. In "Plums," Faith visits her grandmother's home one last time before it is sold, and the spirits of her female slave ancestors greet her. "The Women of Plums" will be presented at 3pm on Sunday, May 25th.

For Box Office sales and information, call (908)249-5560.

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

MOVIES

EDDIE MURPHY SUES TABLOIDS, CLAIMS STORIES WERE FALSE

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Eddie Murphy has filed separate lawsuits against two tabloid publications, saying they published false stories prompted by his encounter with a transsexual prostitute.

The suits, filed Wednesday and each seeking \$5 million in damages, contend the National Enquirer, the Globe and their reporters knew the stories were untrue.

Murphy filed a third lawsuit against an individual identified as Ioane Seuli for comments attributed to him in the New York Post. The Post itself was not named as a defendant in the suit, which seeks \$1 million in damages.

Murphy has said he was just trying to be nice when he picked up Aitose Seuli, 20, in West Hollywood on the morning of May 2 while under court sheriff's deputies looked on.

Murphy, 36, was pulled over minutes after Aitose Seuli got into his car. Seuli was arrested on a warrant, but authorities said Murphy had broken no law.

It was not immediately clear whether Ioane Seuli and Aitose Seuli are related, or where Ioane Seuli lives.

A spokesman for the actor, Paul Bloch, said only that the lawsuits



"speak for themselves."

The Enquirer article, "Eddie Murphy's Secret Sex Life - His Transvestite Hooker Tells All," included accounts of alleged encounters between Murphy and two transsexuals.

The Globe story quoted a person identified as Karen Dair who claimed to have performed a sex act with Murphy.

A message left at the Enquirer after business hours Wednesday night was not immediately returned. The phone at the Globe rang unanswered.

The suits claim the articles which appeared in the May 20 editions of the Globe and Enquirer damaged Murphy's reputation and that he suffered "severe emotional and physical distress, requiring medical attention."

The actor rose to stardom in several hit movies, including "The Nutcracker," "Beverly Hills Cop," and "48 Hours."

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Single-mindedness and innerlessness

By Junious R. Stanton

There is a passage in the Bible that says "a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." (James 1:8) In his classic work *The Soul of Black Folks*, W.E.B. DuBois spoke of a double consciousness. He described the effects of this double-mindedness as two conflicting trains of thought, one Black, one white, constantly running through our minds. DuBois analyzed over Black people being forced to view oneself through the eyes of one's oppressor.

This double consciousness is the root cause of our mental and emotional dysfunction, confusion and self-destructive behaviors. It prevents us from being our truest selves—whole, sane and productive African people. This double-mindedness creates a confused self-identity, we don't know who we really are. We have been so poisoned mentally we have lost touch with reality. We want to be other than what the Creator in infinite wisdom fashioned.

Our double-mindedness prevents us from thinking clearly, from committing ourselves to a single purpose of self-determination, self-actualization and liberation. Part of our problem stems from the fact we have been brainwashed and forced into using only the left hemisphere of our brains. Africans in particular and people of

color use the whole brain. Under European hegemony, we use only half of our capacity which prevents us from extricating ourselves from our predicament. Think about the fact that in a crisis that requires one's full faculties, we use only one half of our brains and our minds are in conflict! Our brains are material, our minds are nonmaterial. It is in our adversities best interests to keep us in this state of double-mindedness and confusion.

Energy follows thought. Thinking is the cause, emotional responses, physiological reactions, outward behavior and habits are the effects. They are merely expressions of our thinking. Africans in America exhibit pathological behavior patterns that clearly reflect/indicate psychic trauma and pain. We see Black people attempting to change their physical features to make themselves look like our oppressors. We see Black people engaged in a myriad of self-destructive and anti-social behaviors such as group disrespect and disunity, drug and alcohol abuse, physical violence, fratricide and even suicide.

When we get our thinking straight everything else will fall into place! How do we do that? By moving from a state of double-minded confusion to a condition of single-mindedness and unity. Obviously this is easier said than done! Any serious consideration of liberation self-actualization and progress demands we do things differently, using our full capacities, talents, abilities and resources. To continue doing things the way we have done them in the past would be utterly insane. (Insanity is doing the same things with the same people over and over again expecting things to turn out differently.)

We must exhort, encourage and train our people to use their minds to our best advantage. We should all critically examine how we think, what we think about and how best to redirect our thinking to help ourselves. It will require a radical shift in consciousness, from a disoriented, confused double-mindedness to a conscious whole-brained linking with the "divine mind" within us. Thinking is a personal process, however we must

relearn to think in collective terms. We must refocus our minds and energies on what is best for the race and ultimately the whole planet. Whole-brained thinking facilitates this type of perspective that allows us to see the integral parts of the vast universe as opposed to Eurocentric left brain thinking that views people as individuals or isolated and alienated beings adrift by ourselves.

Self-determination and liberation begins with regaining control of our minds. We must become more selective about not only what we read, watch and listen to in the media, but importantly, about the internal self-talk we hold within our own minds. What we think and say to ourselves about ourselves, our world

and our abilities are extremely important. Determine to take inventory and control of your thoughts and feelings. We must also learn how to maximize conscious and subconscious cognitive functioning, blending the power of the conscious with the unlimited power of the sub and super conscious frequencies of our minds.

Imagine, what we could accomplish if we focused the full power of our brain and mind on a single purpose and awareness. There would be no way strictly left-brained functionalities could keep us down! Imagine how free we will become once we transcend our mental oppression, values and world view. It is possible. Free your mind, the rest will follow!

Creative visualization: what you see (in your mind) is what you get

By Michael A. Grant, J.D.

"Fortis imaginatio generat causam" (translation: A strong imagination begets the thing itself)

It is true. The mental pictures that dominate our minds later become the living realities that constitute our experiences. And we get to choose the pictures! If you are reading this article (or having it read to you), you are endowed with creative powers that are so vast that they are difficult to explain, but please allow me to try.

In the first book of the Bible, Genesis, we are taught that each of us (male and female) "Are made in the image and likeness of God." God, we believe, is a Creative Spirit.

In Matthew 17:20, the greatest teacher of all said: "Nothing shall be impossible unto you." We are told that as spirits, we have the power to control matter. And thanks to the Heisenberg Principle, this profound conclusion of Jesus of Nazareth has been confirmed in the scientific community. For now, even the most studiously cynical scientists must concede that the mere "observing" of atomic particles (i.e. matter) will alter them.

What then is the connection between Genesis 1:27, Matthew 17:20, and the topic of this week's column—Creative Visualization? I believe the connection is this: If we are like God (God is the sensual, creative, and creating force in the universe), we must have some of God's power in us. Why else would the Great Teacher exalt us with such an overwhelming reminder: "Nothing shall be impossible unto you?"

Every normal human being is endowed with potential greatness. The emphasis here is on the word potential (from the Latin, *potens*, potential, which means power). Most people, it appears, live their entire lives without realizing this potential. This need not be your fate! If you will master the workings of your imagination, "All manner of things" can become possible for you.

It has been written that everything is created twice—first in our minds and then in reality. Earl Nightingale, a human potential expert, electrified his audiences by repeating the provocative statement: "I become what I think about all day long." It is axiomatic—with mathematical certainty—that each of us gets what he or she consistently focuses his or her thoughts (and the mental pictures that flow from them).

Dr. Joseph Murphy, a noted metaphysician, taught that we human beings are equipped with an unlimited powerhouse called the subconscious mind. The subconscious mind, according to Dr. Murphy, is a genius-servant. It takes orders from your conscious mind, especially when they come with strong emotion ("As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he") and clear pictures (i.e., creative visualization).

For example, if you harbor feelings of resentment, if you carry pent-up feelings of anger, worry, incessantly about money matters, not being loved or appreciated or if you feel that others are getting ahead while you lag behind, your subconscious mind will receive those thoughts and their attendant negative images in such a way that the physical brain will begin through an intricate system of communication signals to produce toxic chemicals that adversely affect the body's immune functioning, thereby making you susceptible to disease. Those negative thoughts created first in your mind now materialize as real-life experiences. One great student of psychoneuroimmunology concluded: "Dis-ease in our thoughts and emotions leads to disease in our bodies."

The subconscious mind is equally equipped to transfer those feelings, unceasing, and pain-filled lives into images that are focused, goal-directed, challenging and far, far more enjoyable.

The subconscious mind produces what we believe to be the deepest level of our being. We cannot fake it. What we sincerely believe about ourselves, our abilities, and the direction that our lives will take eventually will be made manifest. From the concept (mental picture) to the concrete (reality), we are either creating health, wealth, loving relations, high energy, joy, peace of mind, and enthusiasm or we are creating anger, resentment, illness, ingratitude, selfishness, boredom, low energy and, possibly, premature death.

If you are wondering how to get started, may I suggest that you find a secluded spot (your favorite, most comfortable place), close your eyes; take 10 deep breaths; totally relax your body; slow down your thoughts and just experience in your solitude the bliss of being alive. Say to yourself several times: "Nothing matters, no guilt or regret about yesterday, no anxiety or worries about tomorrow." Just get into the golden moment. Fo-

cus only on now!

Allow your thoughts to create mental pictures. See (on the mind's screen) what it is that you want to accomplish or to experience. See the new home or the new car, see yourself going along with family members or friends you have recently quarreled with. See yourself enjoying your work—even if it's on a different job than their present one or in your newly-created business.

See yourself going back to school or college (regardless of your age or circumstances). See yourself moving with high energy. See your bank statement reflecting a wealthier person. See yourself handling anger with calmness, strength, and straight-forwardness. Now, add your own pictures.

If you are left-brain dominant, you may have difficulty with this approach to programming your mind. No sweat, if seeing is problematic for you, try hearing that which represents the realization of your dreams. Hear the sounds you make when something wonderful happens to you. Think about each thing that you want to accomplish and simply hear the sounds associated with having achieved that which you hoped would come to pass. If seeing and hearing do not get you into a positive programming state, then try to focus your thoughts and energy on producing the feelings associated with enjoying the experience of the universe giving to you the desires of your heart.

Creative visualization is also an excellent way to interrupt negative, depressing, self-limiting, and counterproductive thoughts. And since you now know that your thoughts create mental pictures, which, in turn, can become reality, why not choose to construct pictures and outcomes that lift your spirit and get you focusing on what you do want rather than on what you do not want.

It is all about choice. Moment by moment, we choose to live lives filled with positive expectations by holding onto visions of what is possible or we choose to cling to pictures of our unhappy situations, underachievement and pain.

The choice is ours. Ultimately, creative visualization allows us countless opportunities to be co-creators of our own destinies. We really do get out of life what we see ourselves getting. Through creative visualization, we can cut the negative, self-defeating filming of the past and begin producing more positive movies for the future; movies where we consciously assign to ourselves the starring role in our lives, taking responsibility for the consequences of our actions, both positive and negative. And as the empowered directors of our own plays, we can issue lines through our persistent thoughts that cause us to behave in new ways; ways that say to ourselves and to all the world: "I Am Great! In The Image And Likeness Of Almighty God."

From now on, I will use this awareness to create pictures for my life that inspire and motivate me to greater heights of achievement. Fear and failure no longer will control me. From this day forward, I will live with the confidence—boosting words found in Matthew 17:20—"NOTHING SHALL BE IMPOSSIBLE UNTO YOU."

God bless!

Dr. Michael A. Grant, author of *Beyond Belief, a motivational/inspirational speaker* His company *24/7 Motivational Consultants*, also conducts seminars, leadership workshops, and team-building meetings. For more information, please contact Victor Cook at (615) 726-1934 or via e-mail at GandC@aol.com.

Religious Calendar

EVERY TUESDAY

HACKENSACK—Prayer service, 7:30 pm—Donation \$5.00. For more information call (201) 342-6118.

EVERY FRIDAY

HACKENSACK—Chocolate Christian Singles is having an after-work house gospel jam 7 pm. For more information call (201) 342-6118.

EVERY SATURDAY

HACKENSACK—House Mix & Mingle, 6 pm. For more information call (201) 342-6118.

EVERY SUNDAY

HACKENSACK—Alder Church House Get Together, 4 pm—Donation \$5.00. For more information call (201) 342-6118.

MAY 16, 17

UPPER MONTCLAIR—Garden State Harper Singing Convention. For more information, call (201) 509-2165.

NEW BRUNSWICK—4th Annual Super Gospel Show featuring Ron Winans and the Rev. Timothy Wright at the State Theater. For more information, call 908-422-1753.

PLAINFIELD—Co-Ed Interfaith Basketball Tournament at the Plainfield High School Gymnasium, Farmington Ministry, contact Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church, 525 W. 4th St.

SATURDAY, MAY 24

OCEAN GROVE—Cynthia Rasmussen at the Francis Asbury Manor Chapel. Part of the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting at the Rev. Timothy Wright at the State Theater. For more information, call 908-775-0035.

MINORITY LUNG DISEASE A FOCUS AT AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION/INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The growing problem of asthma in the inner city and other urgent minority lung-health issues will be featured at the 1997 American Lung Association/American Thoracic Society International Conference in San Francisco May 16-21.

Researchers from across the United States and around the world will be presenting new findings on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of asthma, tuberculosis, emphysema, lung cancer and other lung diseases. The conference is the largest annual scientific meeting in the world focusing on respiratory diseases and critical care medicine.

Lung disease such as asthma, emphysema and chronic bronchitis is the third leading cause of death in the United States and is of special concern to the African-American community. In 1994, there were an estimated 19 million cases of asthma among African-Americans. Although African-Americans represent only 12.5 percent of the population, 22 percent of all asthma deaths occur in the African-American community. More than 47,000 African-Americans die from smoking-related diseases annually. And the lung cancer death rate for African-Americans is nearly 50 percent higher than for white males.

A press panel on asthma and minorities, featuring new research being presented at the meeting, will take place on Monday, May 19 at 11:00 am Pacific Time.

Face It

Someone You Know Has AIDS

In our country, 1 of every 5 people with AIDS is African American. We can win the war on AIDS, saving more lives. Call your local Red Cross for information about the African American HIV/AIDS Program. A program designed by African Americans, for African Americans, that can help you to protect ourselves, our families, and our communities.

"The difference can begin with you."

Greg Alan Williams
Actor/Author



ASK DR. CLARK

FLUORIDE FACTS

Q. How effective is fluoride in preventing cavities? A. "Fluoride has long been recognized as the most reliable preventive measure for caries control," says a report on a Government-sponsored project to reduce tooth and gum problems. "Unfortunately, more than 100 million people in the U.S. are not served by fluoridated water supplies," it notes.

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U.S. apologizes for the Tuskegee experiment

WASHINGTON DC—President Clinton Friday apologized on behalf of the country to a group of poor black men whose syphilis went untreated for years as part of a government study he described as "shameful."

At a deeply moving ceremony in the gilded splendor of the White House East Room, Clinton said the U.S. Public Health Service research project was "clearly racist" and an affront to every African-American as well as to those unwittingly involved.

"What was done cannot be undone but we can end the silence. We can stop turning our heads away. We can look at you in the eye and finally say on the behalf of the American people: What the United States did was shameful and I am sorry," Clinton said.

The study, which began in Tuskegee, Alabama in 1932 and continued until 1972, involved 399 poor black men who were left untreated for syphilis even though treatment was available to let doctors track the course of the disease.

Once the program was stopped the men were given treatment for the

disease.

Five of the eight surviving participants attended the ceremony, three of them in wheelchairs. The others were too infirm to participate, the White House said.

Clinton said they were "a living link to a time not so long ago that many Americans do not like to remember but we dare not forget."

"The U.S. government did something that was wrong: deeply, morally, profoundly wrong. It was an outrage," he said.

Herman Shaw, 94, one of the survivors, said in introducing Clinton that the harm done by the study "went much deeper than the wounds any of us suffered" because it sapped confidence of black people in medicine and their government.

"In my opinion, it is never too late to work to restore faith and trust," said Shaw, who gave an emotional bear hug from Clinton.

Clinton said the government would help build a center for bioethics and health care research in Tuskegee as part of a "lasting memorial" to victims of the syphilis study.

He also directed the Health and Human Services Department to report to him within six months on how to more effectively involve minorities in future medical research.

"We have put the curse behind us. Now we must bring the benefits to all of America," Clinton said.

Survivors and families of participants shared in a \$10 million compensation award made by the government after the study was terminated, but there has never been a formal apology until now.

Clinton told the survivors that those carrying out the experiment "diminished the stature of man by abandoning the most basic of precepts."

"They had the power to heal the survivors and all the others and they did not," he said. "Today all we can do is apologize but you have the power ... only you have the power to forgive. Your presence here shows us that you have chosen a better path to forgive your government did so long ago."

Clinton's apology was not unprecedented. He previously expressed regret to Americans who unknowingly

served as guinea pigs in government radiation experiments that took place years before he became president.

His bid to make amends for the Tuskegee project was part of a series of events aimed at breaking down racial barriers set to take place over the next month.

"This fits into a pattern of things that the president has perceived this year that really talk about how we can come together as a very diverse country ... and use that as an element of our strength," spokesman Mike McCarthy said.

Dr. Randall Morgan, president of the predominantly black National Medical Association, said Clinton's apology did not excuse the study "but it may help close this unfortunate chapter in our nation's history."

"The legacy of this horrible experiment, which lasted 40 years, continues to affect African-Americans today and has led to a sense of fear and general mistrust of the medical research process and the scientific community," Morgan said.

Milan Wins

Continued from page 1

velop opportunities for people of all ethnicities. "I have always been a strong advocate for the city of Camden," he explained. "I am always looking to increase minority positions in business. This city is made up of various ethnic communities and I plan to be a mayor for all of the people of Camden."

Newark teachers seek justice

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

given the same treatment. The third group, according to Butler, is still employed - allegedly because they are administrators.

The fifty teachers have refused a plea bargain, some resigning their posts and others opting for early retirement. Teachers have lost health benefits, with some unable to collect unemployment compensation or borrow funds from their credit union or pension fund.

The Newark district claims the suspensions were based on information received from the Attorney General's office. But according to

March across NJ demands economic and social change



Marchers for economic and social justice start in the City of Newark and plan to end at the State house in Trenton.

By Kennard D. McGill

NEWARK—A small group of protesters assembled on the steps of City Hall on May 16, to begin what is to be the longest march in New Jersey's history for economic and social justice, from Newark to Trenton.

"This effort is a spiritual thing. Although we are small in numbers we are strong in spirit," said Salaam Ismail just before his group hit Broad Street to start their march.

Ismail, Chairman of the Economic Coalition for Justice and organizer of the event said that the group would march the 60 miles to Trenton, stopping in Elizabeth, Plainfield and other cities forming alliances with other community groups to arrive at the State House in Trenton on Saturday, May 17, to present a Ten Point Plan of action to Governor Christine Whitman.

Ismail, said his group has been talking about this for a month and a half now, and it has been dormant for years. The purpose of the march is to bring attention to the conditions of poor people inside state.

"This march is about sending a message hopefully by taking a stand for change," said Ismail from the steps of City Hall. "We urge the Governor to look at our Ten Point Plan and initiate it. Not only on a state wide level but on a city wide level. Ismail said Newark represents just one plight of what's going on around the state."

Mildred A. Minner, Secretary of the Coalition for Economic and Social Justice and march participant said what they hoped to achieve is fairness and economic justice. "There is sneaky racism, and we have to be aware of the tactics they use. If you have the money, you have the power. And we don't get a fare shake in the economic system," said Minner.

found it to be a racist approach. Teachers in other districts, who happen not to be Black, still have their jobs."

The Newark teachers, some who have been educators for twenty to thirty years, claim they've been replaced by individuals with far less experience. "In some schools," Butler said, "there have been four different substitutes our children have been taught by within a week. As a result, our children's education has been interrupted." Workers are seeking damages, back pay and reinstatement of their jobs.

"These teachers are members of our union," he offered. "I don't think the situation was handled appropriately. I

continued from page 1

Whitman plans fail

approach to this was not a practical one. We now hope they will comply with what is supposed to be done."

Jim McGreevey, the leading Democratic gubernatorial contender, used this opportunity to further stress his opinion that Whitman's administration has continually had misdirected priorities that have failed New Jersey students. "The governor's failed funding formula relied on a gimmick every in the same way she has resorted to gimmicks for ongoing budget problems," he stressed.

Former Governor Jim Florio, developer of the Quality Education Act, said, "I'm not surprised. The proposal made no economic sense. It was fairly transparent that this was not being educationally driven as much as it was budget driven. They wanted to save some money at the expense of the students."

Donald Tucker, chairman of the New Jersey Black Issues Convention, said in part, "By permitting a two tiered system of educational funding, created an even greater injustice of inequality against children of color. This decision mandates a new leadership."

Associate Justice Marie Canabal, who voted for the school funding law, had this to say: "The law may not be perfect, but it sets us on a road to establishing a thorough and efficient public school system for every child in this state. The law should be upheld because for the first time, the driving force is educational standards, and not the further continuation of a failed scheme."

Although varying opinions and views are coming from several quarters, the effects this decision will have on schools is what is of utmost importance. To that end, City News spoke with several Superintendents of Schools. "We can clearly use as much funding as we can receive," said Laval

Wilson, Superintendent of Paterson schools. "We will see how well it will be distributed. It will undoubtedly benefit our schools."

Thomas Dunn, Superintendent of schools in Elizabeth, says he wasn't at all surprised by the Supreme Court's ruling. "It was surprised, though, that the decision wasn't unanimous," Dunn explained, "in light of what I knew about the Whitman plan. Some people were concerned about the core curriculum but they were more concerned that the law failed to provide money to assure that these standards could be met in these schools."

Dr. Columbus Bailey, Superintendent of schools in Orange, said Governor Whitman's CEIFA proposal was educationally unsound. "The Act didn't provide for the kind of parity in dollars needed to drive the kind of schooling needed for our children. The court dealt with this Act being illegal. I'm very glad that we have the courts demanding parity in regard to INJ (wealthy) districts."

Plainfield was one school district that was affected by Whitman's initial signing of the law in December. The only "special needs" district in New Jersey, Plainfield was removed from the list of 28 districts that qualified for funding from the state. "The Plainfield district is pleased with today's ruling for the sake of urban school children for our state," expressed Larry Leventer, Plainfield's Superintendent of schools. "But we are disappointed that Plainfield's children were left out."

David Sciara, whose Education Law Center brought its first lawsuit on school funding in 1981, says he will act in Plainfield's behalf on reinstatement.

One issue brought into question is the subject of poor kids who don't live in urban areas. Paul Trachtenberg, one of the lawyers who originally presented the school funding case,

said "As we saw it, the problems in the urban districts were most pressing, and the cities had less resources to deal with them."

E.J. Miranda, a spokesperson for the Newark School district, seemed optimistic but analytical about the ruling. "We are still reviewing the decision and waiting to see what this will translate in terms of dollars," he offered. "We're picking up the pace of our strategic plan which involves directing the education of our students in an effective and concrete way."

Education Commissioner Leo Klagholz has been credited as being the person who came up with the idea of using a standard core curriculum to measure education equality. The development of a program that suits the needs of urban schools now falls in his hands, and that of the State Board of Ed and the Legislature. The Commissioner's office declined comment.

MEMORIAL DAY
MAY 26, 1997

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1997 CITY NEWS Awards Supplement

SECOND ANNUAL
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Tony Brown



Mappoluneta, Marcelle Harris



Cissy Houston



Alfred Keoppe

MAY 1, 1997 • NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

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100 Most Influential

We Congratulate the
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Congratulations

from
Henry & Jan Johnson
publishers of City News

Thank you for joining us in this second celebration of the City News 100 Most Influential honoring individuals, organizations, and corporations that are making significant contributions to the progress of black people and to New Jersey's urban communities. We believe that New Jersey must build a renewed energy to solve the problems of its urban center as we enter a new millennium. This event serves to bring together and highlight those who are meeting that challenge and winning the battles.

Our 100 Most Influential honorees come from throughout the State and are participants in their own way in making a difference in their communities or for communities served through their company. We join with those who value your efforts as we seek to build better communities in urban New Jersey.

Our special recognition of Major General Marcelite Harris and the Claude B. Govan and Hannibal "Killer" Cox Chapters of the Tuskegee Airman reminds us of the incredible spirit of achievement, honor, and victories of which we are capable when the door is opened. Most of all, their accomplishments remind us of our responsibility to become the best. We are so proud that we have an opportunity to recognize just some of these heroic airmen and support crews who are with us today.

In addition, we are truly honored to have Cissy Houston, a living legend, as one of our Special Honorees. Through her tremendous talent of song, we've all stood a little firmer in our convictions as we listen to her "joyful noise." We honor Tony Brown for his courage in keeping the American dialog real as it grapples with race and economics and for opening a multitude of media to keep the dialog going.

Last year's 100 Most Influential Honoree, Al Koeppe is our choice for this year's Eagle Award. Al is the perfect example of one who continues to raise the bar in his commitment to New Jersey's urban communities and to the implementation of diversity in corporate America.

We thank the sponsors and all who have joined us here this evening to give witness to the power of the people in New Jersey and beyond who make us proud and who inspire all to contribute to the betterment of society in general.



City News Publishing Company

City News is about linking individuals and families with the corporate and business community, churches, schools and community based organizations. City News specifically focuses on urban communities where a majority of black people live, work, shop and strive to improve their quality of living.

City News constantly draws on the past to make sense of current times and to provide direction for the challenges we face today and in the future. It is about our African heritage with roots deep in fertile soil having spawned

mankind and the first civilizations. It is about our American history with roots deep in slavery and struggle. It is about our victories and triumphs. It is about our setbacks and shortcomings. Most importantly City News and its family of publications are about the strengths of the black community in New Jersey and richness of urban life.

Each week, City News helps to preserve the struggles, achievements, issues and dreams of black people for the annals of history, linking the past and future, helping to pave the way for a better tomorrow.

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City News Honors 100 Most Influential at gala reception and awards program

By Daryle Lamont Jenkins

NEWARK—They were reflective of the many facets that make up New Jersey, coming from the areas of education, civil rights, sports, media, business, religion, health & science, corporate industry, community service, entertainment, and politics. They were considered the best of the best in their profession, be it Gospel songstress Cissy Houston, television personality Tony Brown, or East Orange Mayor Cardell Cooper. Some, like the Tuskegee Airmen and Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Marcelite Harris were regarded as heroes and inspirations to this and future generations, and many are active to this day in securing that future. The May evening, tribute was paid to them at the City News Second Annual 100 Most Influential Awards held at the Newark Airport Marriott.

New Jersey's largest African-American weekly newspaper selected one-hundred persons to be recognized for their contributions toward the upward mobility of New Jersey's African-American community and to the building up of the state's urban areas. The nominations were received from the public, former nominees and honorees, sponsoring organizations and from City News staff. The honorees were notified of their award, and the entire roster was kept confidential until the award ceremonies.

Special tributes were set aside for the Tuskegee Airmen, who have been recognized for changing the course of World War II, and Maj. Gen. Harris, who at her retirement Feb. 9 was the highest ranking African-American female in the military. Cissy Houston, the gospel legend who has captivated audiences for 40 years, and whose daughter Whitney was an honoree last year, and television personality Tony Brown, who has been a popular staple on TV with his informative program about the concerns of the black community, *Tony Brown's Journal*, were honored with Outstanding Achievement Awards.

The event began with a reception and buffet where the honorees and attendees met for the first time. Afterwards, the festivities moved to the Grand Ballroom, where the ceremonies were hosted by Dr. Henry Johnson, publisher of City News, and his wife, Jan Edgenton Johnson, City News editor. The Malik Hajj El Shabazz High School Color Guard presented the colors for the event and the Invocation was given by Rev. Moses Knott of Imani Baptist Church. David Jefferson of AT&T, one of the events sponsors, welcomed everyone to the event as did Herbert Tate, president of the Board of Public Utilities, who in representing Governor Christie Whitman read a letter of praise from her to the City News and the event attendees.

The tributes began with reflections on Maj. Gen. Harris by Jan Johnson, who recalled their trip together to Brussels, Belgium, where the General led a delegation of about 100 top level servicewomen for the NATO Women's Conference. "It was such an experience...to see this woman who looks somewhat like me, and all these wonderful women of high command who are doing a job for this country," she said.

An upbeat General Harris came to the stage amid a standing ovation, and paid homage to the Tuskegee Airmen, saying that

they were successful, as she was, due to their perseverance. She spoke to the children when she spoke of that element of success. "Never let anybody close the door on you," she said to the audience, in particular the children present. "You must understand that you are the only person who could shut that door and you shut that door when you let someone else control your wants, your will and your mind." Upon leaving the stage, the Shabazz High School Guard formed a cordon which is two military columns for her to walk through.

The Tuskegee Airmen were honored with a video presentation detailing their accomplishments, and members of the Claude B. Gowan and Hannibal "Killer" Cox chapters of the Tuskegee Airmen came to the stage, also to a standing ovation to receive plaques honoring them. General Harris, who sits on the board of the Tuskegee Airman Foundation, took the time to pose with the Airmen for a picture.

Saying that Tony Brown was "an idol for all of us" when she was in public broadcasting, Mrs. Johnson praised him for his work in journalism, radio, and television in giving him his Outstanding Achievement Award. Brown also paid homage to the Airmen, saying that African-Americans need to replicate them in the form of young men and women for the 21st century. "In our community we are behind other communities," he said. "In the black community, if we had a computer in every home, we will produce a Tuskegee Airmen or woman in every home."

"I hope that I have been able to share what I have been given with others, and by doing so touching them by some song or some words that I've said," Cissy Houston remarked to the audience as she received her Outstanding Achievement Award from Mrs. Johnson, who said she "has provided us with...so much joyful noise." She also relayed well wishes from her daughter Whitney, who could not attend due to prior commitments in Japan.

Dr. Johnson joined his wife on stage to present the 1997 Eagle Award to Al Koepp, Senior Vice President of Corporate Services and External Affairs at PSE&G who was recognized for contributing highly and unselfishly to the community. "I'm overwhelmed, and I thank you very much," Mr. Koepp said as he received his award. "I just try to find a spark in people that people found in me."

The 100 Most Influential of 1997 was introduced to the audience with video presentations for each of the twelve categories. The categories were presented by last year's honorees from that field and applause filled the room as each honoree was mentioned. The honorees each received a framed portrait of the 1997 recipients.

In addition to AT&T, the Awards Ceremony was sponsored by Bell Atlantic, Chase, PSE&G, CoreStates, GPU Energy, Hoechst Marion Roussel, PNC Bank, Prudential, Summit Bank, Valley National Bank, WLBI-AM/WBLS-FM, Cable Vision of Newark, Deloitte & Touche LLP, MetLife, Pepsi Cola, Schering-Plough, Anheuser-Busch Companies, Bank of New York, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of New Jersey, Broad National Bank, City National Bank, Investors, Savings Bank, and Nabisco.



Jan M. Edgenton Johnson, Editor of City News, and Dr. Henry Johnson, Publisher of City News were hosts for the evening's festivities.



Al Koepp, Senior Vice President of Corporate Services and External Affairs for PSE&G (L) was the recipient of the Eagle Award.



Maj. General (ret.) Marcelite Harris and the Tuskegee Airmen were recipients of City News' Outstanding Achievement awards. They pose in front of the podium after receiving their awards.



Tony Brown, a City News Outstanding Achievement award recipient, is greeted by Jan Edgenton Johnson, Editor of City News.

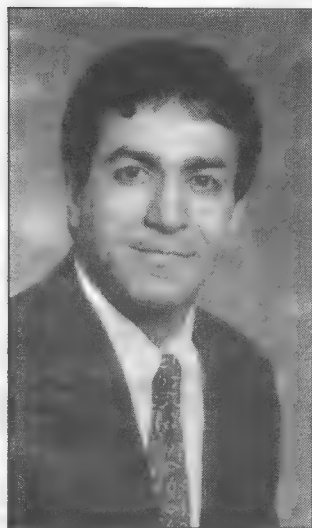


Maj. General (ret.) Marcelite Harris and Cissy Houston were honored for their outstanding contributions and achievements at the City News 100 Most Influential.

**“We Congratulate the
City News 100 Most Influential
and members of the PSE&G family
for their commitment to help
build urban communities.”**

The Power of Commitment





Joe Karas
AT&T Vice President
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 and Innovation

AT&T is pleased to once again co-sponsor the 100 Most Influential with City News to acknowledge those who are giving back to their communities.

I am especially proud of the four AT&T nominees on the list who were selected to receive a 1997 City News 100 Most Influential Award: Cephas Bowles, Charles Craig, Patricia Fields and Emily Mann. Through their important works, New Jersey is a better place to live and work, where the arts and music are part of the fabric of life and where people of all circumstances can aspire to improvement and fulfillment.

As a company, AT&T shares the City News' concern for the underprivileged and underserved. For that reason, each year we support numerous non-profit organizations across the state. In addition to contributions of charitable dollars, through our AT&T Cares initiative, employees volunteer their time and talent on

Corporate Co-host

hundreds of activities—from helping to build low-income housing, to wiring schools for the promise of technology, to participating in rescue squads. The company supports their volunteer activity with time off from work and philanthropic dollars to underscore the importance of community support, civic involvement and volunteer relationships.

AT&T values its relationship with City News. Over the years, Henry and Jan Johnson have done so much to promote positive activities in the African-American community. They have reported on the positive stories neglected by other media and have created programs to help our youth. The 100 Most Influential continues the tradition of highlighting the success stories in our state. On behalf of AT&T, I congratulate the Johnsons and City News for their tireless dedication and commitment.



Governor Christie Todd Whitman
New Jersey

My congratulations to the individuals who have been selected for the 1997 100 Most influential list. I am personally honored that you have selected Commerce Commissioner Gil Medina and Board of Public Utilities President Herb Tate to be included on this year's list.

Your special honorees are individuals to whom we all owe a debt of gratitude. The Tuskegee Airmen and General Marcelite Harris set standards in the United States military to which we should all aspire. Tony Brown has helped us all

understand just how important the Tuskegee Airmen were to our nation's success in World War II.

Making New Jersey a better place requires the participation of everyone in the Garden State. The City News is an important part of New Jersey's diverse and rich culture' and I'm glad that you and your readers all call New Jersey home.

Again, congratulations to all of your honorees.



Mayor Sharpe James
Newark, New Jersey

As the most widely-circulated African-American weekly newspaper in New Jersey, City News is a tremendous asset to the state's largest and most culturally-diverse city—the City of Newark. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I salute the staff of your extraordinary publication for creating the 100 Most Influential Awards program to honor and celebrate the efforts of outstanding individuals and corporations.

Thanks to the 100 Most Influential program, the public has an opportunity to recognize people who have supported and contributed to the upward mobility of New Jersey's African-American population. This year's honorees have been greatly responsible for

infusing economic, social, cultural, scientific, spiritual and political vitality into this great State of ours.

Having shared this honor at the first annual 100 Most Influential Awards ceremony last year, it gives me great pleasure to join you in saluting this year's esteemed group of prestigious honorees, including the Tuskegee Airmen, Major General Marcelite Harris, Radio Host Tony Brown and Newark's own Cissy Houston. Their vast contributions truly have helped make a difference in our nation's history.

Please know that you have my best wishes for continued success in your outstanding organization and in all of your endeavors.



Outstanding Achievement Major General Marcelite Harris

Major General Marcelite J. Harris can be credited with paving the way for African-American women who aspire to rise within the ranks of the United States Air Force. Harris, who began her military career in 1965, started as an Administrative Officer.

Throughout her career, she became the first African-American female officer to accomplish several goals, and to obtain certain positions. In 1968, she was the first woman to become an Aircraft Maintenance Officer. She later became the Air Force's first woman Deputy Commander for Maintenance, the first African-American Brigadier General, the first woman Director of Maintenance, and the Defense Department's first African-American woman Major General.

While serving as director of maintenance, Harris organized, trained and equipped a work force of more than 125,000 technicians and managers. She also maintained the \$260 billion plus Global Reach-Global Power aerospace weapons systems inventory.

Even though she focused on aircraft maintenance during her career, Major General Harris also gained experience in technical training, personnel management, systems acqui-

sition, human relations, and finance and budget management. She was the designer and planner for the Air Force's Outsourcing and Privatization Program, and planned and implemented the Mission Ready Technician initiative, training airmen to a level between apprentice and journeyman.

Her outstanding leadership abilities earned her the Bronze Star as a flightline maintenance officer for exemplary performance during the Vietnam war. Harris' awards and honors did not stop there. She has received the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, been cited as the "Most Prestigious Individual" by Dollars and Sense magazine, named "Woman of the Year" by the National Organization of the Tuskegee Airmen and "Military African-American Woman" by the National Political Congress of Black Women, Incorporated.

Major General Harris, a lifetime member of the round table of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. and Chairman of the Committee on Women in the NATO Forces, has been listed in Who's Who Among Black Americans, Who's Who Among Business Women and Who's Who in America.

Outstanding Achievement

Claude B. Govan and Hannibal "Killer" Cox Chapters of the Tuskegee Airmen

City News is proud to salute the Tuskegee Airmen for their bravery in war and for helping to establish the integrity and honor of black people in America.

As the most crucial war in man's history raged in Europe and the Pacific, another momentous battle was taking place on the American home front - between brothers-in arms. In World War II American, black soldiers were fighting for and being denied the respect, honor and remuneration given their white comrades and their struggle was often met with treachery, violence and even murder.

They were extraordinary men, these black eagles. They came through the most rigorous training, purposely intensified because of their color, fought "Jim Crow" in America

and ignorance abroad and emerged with what may be the most singular set of honors, awards and achievements of any American fighting unit.

Commanded by Col. Benjamin O. Davis, later to become the first black Lt. General in the Air Force, the 450 pilots fought in the air over Sicily, North Africa and Europe, often forced to use outdated aircraft. They flew more than 15,000 sorties and completed 1578 missions. They destroyed 409 enemy aircraft and, incredibly, sank an enemy destroyer with machine gun fire, their strafing missions wrought havoc in enemy communications and supply lines.

Sixty-six of the Tuskegee airmen were killed in combat and thirty-two were shot down and captured. They came

home with 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 1 Legions of Merit, 1 Silver Star, 14 Bronze Stars, 8 Purple Hearts and 744 Air Medal and Clusters.

Speak to a Tuskegee Airman and you will learn of his hair-raising perils, poignant tragedy, the exultation of victory, treachery from enemies and from allies, and the deadly hazards of war. He will speak of healing, of courage and of the will to succeed at any cost. He will also tell you what it was like to make it in mid-century America when you had every-thing going for you, except the right color skin.

We salute these pioneers—The Tuskegee Airmen for their courage to face the odds and win.

First black combat pilots Establish National Office

BY SONYA ROSS ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP)—Recalling warmemories undimmed by time, a half dozen members of the famed Tuskegee Airmen came together Wednesday to establish the first national office for their elite group.

The Tuskegee Airmen Inc. set up shop at the Air Force Association building here to better coordinate the educational programs run by their three regional chapters and to be more accessible to corporate sponsors.

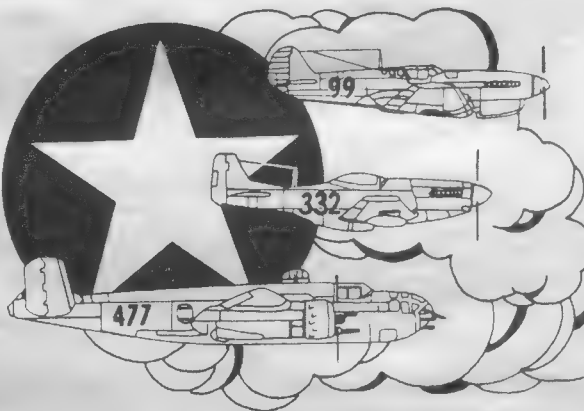
But a primary purpose is to simply tell the Tuskegee Airmen's story, offering the airmen themselves, all well over age 70 now but still quite spry, for speaking engagements.

"This was the first affirmative action the United States ever had," joked Claude C. Robinson, a member of the 99th Pursuit Squadron, the first crop of black fighter pilots.

The airmen celebrated with an evening reception outside their suite of offices, which were still being painted Wednesday. Among those attending the reception was Lt. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., who was their commanding officer.

Among the airmen's goals is to expand their scholarship fund, which awards \$60,000 in scholarships each year to young people interested in careers in aviation.

Between 1941 and 1948, 996 black men went to an airfield in Tuskegee, Ala., for training



offered by the War Department.

The training was intended initially to show that blacks lacked the physical and psychological stamina to fly fighter missions. Instead, the Tuskegee-trained pilots garnered one of the best records in military aviation history.

Under their escort, not one American bomber was lost to enemy action while en route to their World War II missions. In June 1944, one pilot, Lt. Gwynne Pierson, took out a German destroyer near Trieste, Italy by merely firing his eight 50-caliber machine guns at it until it exploded and sank.

"It wasn't as hard as it might seem," said Col. Charles Sheppard, who enlisted to become a mechanic but went on to fly with the 302nd Fighter Squadron.

"This was no bunch of rinky-dinks off the street," Sheppard said. "Davis instilled in us discipline. We were very proud. We struggled together. We solved our problems."

Of the 450 Tuskegee trainees who became fighter pilots, 66 were killed in action and 32 were taken prisoner of war.

The medals they earned included 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, one Silver Star, one Legion of Merit, eight Purple Hearts and three Presidential Unit citations.



Eagle Award Al Koeppe

Alfred C. Koeppe has garnered outstanding achievements in the utilities and telecommunications industries. A graduate of Rutgers University (B.A. degree in English) and Seton Hall Law School, he was named Senior Vice President of Corporate Services and External Affairs for PSE&G in November of 1996. Prior to being promoted to that position, Mr. Koeppe worked as Senior Vice President - External Affairs.

Before joining the PSE&G family, Alfred enjoyed a long-standing career with Bell Atlantic - New Jersey. At Bell Atlantic, he was first the Vice President of public affairs, responsible for rate and regulatory matters. He later became President and Chief Executive Officer.

In addition to his career achievements, Alfred Koeppe holds membership in a number of organizations. He is a member of the New Jersey Network Foundation Board of Trustees, St. Benedict's Prep School in Newark, the Board of Governors of the National Conference, the Better Business Bureau Executive Council, the Public Affairs Institute of New Jersey and Prosperity New Jersey.

In an obvious response to his concern about drug use, Mr. Koeppe is the acting Chairman of the Governor's Council for A Drug Free Workplace. He is also a member in the American, New Jersey and Essex County Bar Associations, and serves as a Board of Director

Special Honorees

of Digital Solutions, Inc. and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of New Jersey.

An entrepreneur and inventor in his own right, Koeppe has made a significant contribution to the penal system. He is the inventor and patent holder of a home incarceration system that operates through telecommunications technology.

A staunch supporter of diversity, he has received several awards in recognition of his efforts: the Association of Latino Bell Atlantic Employees Recognition Award, a Diversity Award presented by the Consortium of Information Technological Executives, and the Trailblazer Award presented by the Council of Action for Minority Professionals.

Cissy Houston—gospel singer, renowned session vocalist, and mother to singing sensation Whitney Houston—has sung a joyful noise on many records and in her Newark, NJ-based house of worship, New Hope Baptist Church.

Her singing career began at the age of five, when she toured and sang with her family's gospel group, The Drinkard Sisters.

Their signature sound, in addition to impressing audiences around the world, also impressed some of rhythm & blues' hottest stars. The group sang with the likes of Chuck Jackson, Wilson Pickett and Aretha Franklin. The late sixties found them performing with Elvis Presley during his Las Vegas comeback shows.

In the '70s, Cissy became part of a

female group "The Sweet Inspirations." Their song, "Sweet Inspiration," reached the Top Ten on the R&B charts and was nominated for a Grammy Award. Following her stint with the Sweet Inspirations, Cissy recorded solo LPs, performed at Carnegie Hall, the Cannes Music Festival and won the Most Outstanding Artist Award at the Yamaha Festival in Tokyo. Houston later opened her own voice studio and acted in Off-Broadway productions.

Cissy, who sang background vocals on several recordings by Whitney ("I Wanna Dance With Somebody" and "How Will I Know") and Luther Vandross, is reveling in the success of "Face To Face," her first solo album in 15 years. The album, which features a

30-voice choir from Newark, won Cissy a Grammy award this past March.

Cissy restricts her musical work largely to background singing because of her 20-year commitment as minister of music at New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, NJ. When not immersed in her love of music, she gives of her time as the President and CEO of the Whitney Houston Foundation for Children, Inc. The organization was founded by Whitney to aid disadvantaged youth.

In 1995, Cissy was the recipient of a Rhythm & Blues Foundation Pioneer Award, and has received honorary doctorate degrees from Kean and Essex County colleges. She is also a member of the Board of Trustees for the National Sammy Davis Jr. Foundation.



Outstanding Achievement Cissy Houston



Outstanding Achievement Tony Brown

Tony Brown can very easily be credited with having paved the way for many African-American journalists. Founder of the National Association of Black Media Producers, he has hosted his television interview program, "Tony Brown's Journal," for 25 years.

As commentator and executive producer of the show, Brown tackles issues that have prompted discussion and instigated controversy. His programs deal with computer literacy, politics, self-help, and the state of blacks in America.

His popular call-in radio show broadcasts Monday through Thursday from 2-5 p.m., on WLIB-AM radio. Some of the show's impassioned topics have ranged from economic empowerment to race relations. Mr. Brown was selected by

"Talkers" magazine as one of "the 100 most important radio talk show hosts in America."

Mr. Brown has taken many of his opinions and views and compiled them in his first book, "Black Lies, White Lies: The Truth According to Tony Brown" published by William Morrow Company. The text addresses the state of Black leadership, AIDS, Brown's plan to make black America work and his anecdotes to making America work if he were president.

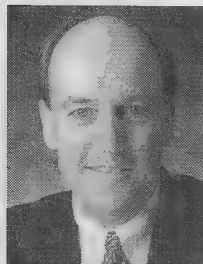
To assure that he's not on the outskirts of the cyber age, Mr. Brown has spearheaded Tony Brown Online—"The Cyberspace Club. The club is a nationwide online computer service that links subscribers to worldwide internet users.

Netizens who subscribe to Brown's network are offered E-mail, databases, business and employment opportunities, forums, youth activities and computer training.

Tony Brown's unending journalist commitments to the public include a syndicated column that appears in African-American newspapers across the country. Mr. Brown's many hats include cultural diversity consultant, keynote speaker, educator, media entrepreneur and film director. Mr. Brown produced "Black Eagles," a documentary film on the Tuskegee Airmen that has helped to share their pioneering experience with thousands.

Presentors

Len Lauer



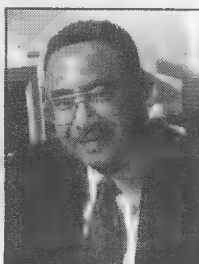
Community Development

Cecil Banks, Esq.



Community Service

Fred Toca



Health, Science & Technology

Shirley Ward



Corporate Community Involvement

Elaine Harrington



Civil Rights

Carl Brooks



Entertainment & Sports

Etta Denk



Economic Development

Sen. Ronald Rice



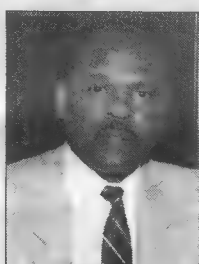
Politics, Law & Government

Avis Yates



Minority Business Enterprise

C. Roy Epps



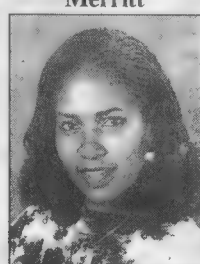
Education

Rev. Reginald Jackson



Religion

Patricia Reid-Merritt



Media, Arts & Culture

We offer major opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses.



Last year NJ TRANSIT, New Jersey's statewide public transportation corporation, awarded more than \$36.5 million in contracts to minority and women-owned business firms in areas such as professional services, construction, supplies and equipment.

If you have a firm that is at least 51% owned and controlled by women or other disadvantaged individuals (African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, Native Americans), and would like information on becoming a certified vendor for NJ TRANSIT contracts, please complete the form below and mail to: NJ TRANSIT Headquarters, Small/Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Programs, One Penn Plaza East, Newark, New Jersey 07105-2246.



Yes, I would like to receive an application to become a certified vendor with NJ TRANSIT Corporation. My business is in the following industry: (check appropriate box below):

- ☐ Professional/Business Service
☐ Construction Trades/Related Services

- ☐ Supplies/Equipment
☐ Other (please specify)

Company Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number _____ Fax # _____

Contact _____ Title _____

Date _____ Where did you see this ad? _____



For more information, contact our Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Programs at (201) 491-8065.
24-Hour Contract Hotline (201) 491-8076



NJ TRANSIT
 The Way To Go.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

"Our nettlesome task is to discover how to organize our strength into compelling power."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The goal of Community Development is to organize our communities to give its residents a sense of well-being which includes housing, jobs, education, recreation and enterprise. The following men and women have taken on this task in extraordinary ways particularly in the urban communities of New Jersey—building blocks and neighborhoods one by one helping to improve the quality of life.



Stephen N. Aduabato

Stephen N. Aduabato has been committed to helping Newark's civic, cultural and educational development for 27 years. As the founder and Executive Director of the North Ward Center, Mr. Aduabato oversees the agency which helps meet the needs of children, young adults and senior citizens. He is also the founder of the Robert Treat Academy Charter School, the Newark Business Training Institute and is a trustee of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newark. A former counselor, teacher and supervisor for the Newark Board of Education, Stephen is now a strong advocate for the Newark Community School of the Arts and is a member of the Newark chapter of the NAACP.



Shirley A. DeLibero

As Executive Director of NJ Transit, Shirley A. DeLibero improved service quality, safety and enhanced the efficiency of the transit's operations. She has spent her career in the transit system focusing on the concerns of the 188 million passengers each year that ride NJ Transit and with running a top-notch transit system. Since her appointment in 1990, Shirley has given the third largest multi-modal public transit system a 14.5% growth in ridership with no fare increases or reduction in service. She has received awards from Women Executives in State Government Breaking the Glass Ceiling Award, Outstanding Administrator Award from the Black Issues Convention, and the American Public Transit System's Jesse L. Haugh Award as Transit Manager of the Year.



Lydia Barrett

Lydia Barrett, President and CEO of the Urban League of Essex County, directs programs that aid in the career and personal development of the citizens in her community. Inspired by her parents to work to improve the lives of other Blacks, Lydia has built effective programs that teach job training, computer skills, and home buyer education. Addressing her concern for teenage parents, she developed TEEN PROGRESS, a New Jersey welfare to work program. Mrs. Barrett has served at a number of other social agencies and as a program officer for the Victoria Foundation. As a volunteer, she recently served for three years as chairperson of the Montclair Civil Rights Commission.



Kathleen DiChiara

Fewer people in the state of New Jersey are going hungry because of the work of Kathleen DiChiara. As Executive Director and Founder of the Community Foodbank of New Jersey, Kathleen distributes donated food to more than 1500 charities in 18 counties. The Foodbank's staff is made up of people from various religious, ethnic, and educational backgrounds. Kathleen's organization has committed itself to providing employment opportunities for everyone. Some of their staff members are addicts in recovery and ex-offenders. Kathleen has received awards from the Pope and the State Legislature for her undying efforts in community service.



Noreen Casey

Noreen Casey is responsible for contributing to the development of our youth and communities. As Senior Vice President of CoreStates Financial Corporation, she created and developed the CoreStates New Jersey National Bank Community Development Department and currently serves as its director. The department's activities include education, youth support, affordable housing, and economic development programs throughout New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. Ms. Casey, who serves as a board member for the Camden Collaborative and is the Board President of the Mercer County Hispanic Association, is also a board member of the W.K. Kellogg National Leadership plan.



Ellen Dotto

As Director, ONJ Initiatives at Bell Atlantic, Ellen Dotto has been Project Manager for Project Explore at the Christopher Columbus School in Union City, and a Project Team Leader for Renaissance 2000 Technology Center in New Brunswick. She is also responsible for the implementation of Opportunity New Jersey, Bell Atlantic's commitment to accelerate the deployment of their advanced telecommunications network throughout New Jersey. In the past she has served as the Chairperson of the Middlesex County Employer Legislative Committee and on the Boards of New Brunswick Tomorrow and the Middlesex and Union Counties Chambers of Commerce. She is a member of the Board of Governors of Union County College.



Gail Davis

Gail Davis has dedicated most of her volunteer life to organizations that provide prevention and intervention programs for urban adolescents and children. She is on the board of Community Agencies Corporation, NJ, Inc., one of the largest multi-purpose youth organizations in New Jersey; and was responsible for establishing PSE&G's volunteer program which included a weekly student tutorial program serving over 150 children. Gail mobilizes over 600 March of Dime team walkers each year. She is the Urban Initiatives Executive for the Public Service, Electric & Gas Company. In that capacity, she develops and manages urban revitalization projects that relate to education and job training, housing, transportation, public safety and social services.



Milton Harrison

As President and CEO of the Newark YMWCA, Milton Harrison is credited with returning the landmark building to the institution residents remember. To establish his goal, Harrison developed a strategic plan that involved cleaning up the building and a subsequent grand re-opening. Under his direction, the Y now boasts a state-of-the-art fitness center and social service facility. To complete his vision, Mr. Harrison designed programs for children of working parents and for the homeless. Milton Harrison has successfully provided and maintained a facility with programs that benefit the residents of Newark and surrounding communities.

Community Development (Continued)



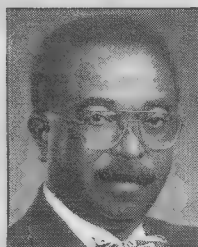
JOHN LEONARD

John Leonard has 20 years experience in the banking industry. He is the Vice President of Chase Manhattan Bank. In that capacity, his goal has been to enhance the bank's leadership position in funding "partnerships that work" with community-based organizations. John heads a team of streetbankers whose job it is to increase the extent of resources and programs in New Jersey, upstate New York and Connecticut. He has served as Director of Community Relations for the Community Development group. Leonard manages Chase Bank's Community Advisory Board. He has received awards from the Queens Council of the Arts, the NAACP and the Neighborhood Housing Services of New York.



Tony Peele

As the Executive Director of Community Agencies Corporation (CAC) of NJ, Tony Peele oversees four non-profit corporations. The inter-related agencies - Friendly Fuld Neighborhood Centers, Inc.; Protestant Community Centers, Inc.; Cross Counters, Inc.; and Student/Partner Alliance - have a \$5 million budget and 140 employees. The goal of programs sponsored by CAC is to increase the self-worth and confidence of the families and children who participate. Mr. Peele was instrumental in the establishment of the James Street Neighborhood House, presently known as PCCI's Center for Children. He has received a B.A. and M.A. from the New School of Social Research in Urban Professions, with an emphasis on Human Resources and Psychology. Tony Peele has set a standard in community involvement.



Harold Lucas

Harold Lucas, a graduate of Seton Hall Law School, has dedicated himself to changing the face of Newark's public housing. His impressive career in housing development has led him to his current position of Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the City of Newark (NHA) in 1992. The goal of the NHA is to provide Newark residents with safe and sanitary housing. A member of the Garden State Bar, the New Jersey Bar, and the National Bar Associations, Mr. Lucas is responsible for spearheading a new construction program and reducing the extensive waiting list for apartments.



Rev. Dr. Willie Simmons

Communities across the country need more individuals concerned with helping to lighten some of the problems incurred by people in low-income communities. As the President of the Board of Directors of the United Community Corporation, Reverend Willie Simmons insures that the planning and implementing of programs that involve rebuilding neighborhoods, helping the homeless and hungry, job training and other services, are carried out. In addition, Rev. Dr. Simmons can be credited with bringing together the first meeting of Black and Latino Ministers in Essex County to discuss mutual areas of concern and possible solutions. Reverend Simmons, who has been the recipient of more than 100 awards, is the State Chaplain of the New Jersey Black Issues Convention and President of the United Community Holding Corporation.



Donald C. Mann

As Senior Vice President of Community Resources for the Prudential Insurance Company, and Chair of the Prudential Foundation, Donald C. Mann contributes millions of dollars yearly to non-profit groups that focus on the needs of children and society. Mann also oversees Prudential's Corporate Social Responsibility commitment toward affordable housing, is a member of the Governor's School of New Jersey and the Labor Policy Association, established Advocates for Newark's Children and mentors young African-Americans in Newark. His work embodies corporate dedication and concern for rebuilding communities and responding to the needs of youth.



Mary Smith

Mary Smith has a strong commitment to children. As Executive Director of Babyland Services, she heads six child care centers which provide quality care and early childhood education for more than 600 low-income, abused and homeless children. The organization also provides shelter and counseling to over 240 battered women and foster care for 300 boarder babies and sibling children. Mary, who has pioneered child care for babies living with AIDS, is also the Treasurer of New Community Corporation. NCC is a non-profit community organization that built and manages over 3,000 units of affordable housing and has provided employment training and placement for over 10,000 community residents.



William T. Merritt

William T. Merritt's efforts in public service and leadership development exemplify his dedication to helping Black organizations. As President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Black United Fund, he organized and developed the National Black United Federation of Charities which, so far, have raised \$10 million dollars for national Black organizations. In an effort to expand the efforts, members and projects of the organization, Merritt organizes and develops new local Black United Funds as affiliates. Mr. Merritt is also responsible for the development of MAARK, a community leadership development program which recruited and trained prospective volunteers in corporate arenas to serve on the Boards of Directors for not-for-profit organizations.



Ella S. Teal

Ella Teal's goal is to assist African-Americans and other minority groups in their achievement of social and economic equality. As President/CEO of the Urban League of Union County, Teal has implemented programs for employment, day care, housing, and youth counseling in the areas of teen pregnancy, day treatment for juvenile offenders, and summer youth employment. The agency, which serves over 2,600 county residents through its programs, grew from a \$450,000 agency in 1979 to a solid diversified direct service delivery agency with over a budget of more than \$1.5 million. Teal somehow finds time to devote to various councils and organizations. She is a member and Former Chair of the Human Service Advisory Council and a Union County Representative of the New Jersey State Human Service Advisory Council.



Maria Vizcarrondo-DeSoto

Setting precedent is nothing new to Maria Vizcarrondo-DeSoto. In April of 1996, she became President and CEO of United Way of Essex and West Hudson. She is the first woman to head a Metro I United Way, responsible for raising and allocating over \$10 million dollars annually. As President/CEO of United Way, Maria is also responsible for the operations, planning and policy development for the largest United Way organization in the state of New Jersey. When addressing her community involvement, Maria says, "I have made a personal and professional decision to focus my energies to nurture children, strengthen families and build healthier communities."

COMMUNITY SERVICE

"Blackness is not a hairstyle. It is not a dashiki. Judge my blackness by the jobs that we have, by the money we are able to generate in our community...."

Bertha Knox Gilkey

This category recognizes the sustained, committed efforts by individuals to provide assistance, resources, and support to build communities where everyone can live and grow with dignity.



Donald Bernard, Sr.

From his work in the fight against AIDS and drugs to his current position as Chairman of the African-American Day Parade, Donald Bernard has undoubtedly been an asset to his community. An independent consultant, Donald works with Nocrine, Inc., a non-profit consultant firm which works to bring hope and choices to communities in the area of Drug Education and AIDS. On the cultural front, he has turned the African-American Heritage Parade into a festival that celebrates the pride and prosperity of African-American people. A parade committee has been formed that brings forth education and awareness of crucial, educational, economic, and social issues affecting African-Americans. Donald Bernard presently works at the Newark Watershed Conservation where he serves as Manager of Special Projects.



Lamyra Clarke

Lamyra Clarke believes that everyone has something to give back to their community. She has given back through her continual efforts with several organizations. As the youngest president of a graduate chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Lamyra became involved with a monthly "Feed the Hungry" program. She has also participated in programs for AIDS awareness, voter education, the black family, and several other projects benefiting urban communities. Lamyra, who is the president of the Central Presbyterian Women's Organization at Central Presbyterian Church, is a Systems Analyst at Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.



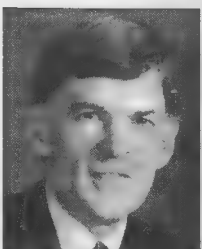
Geraldine Boone

Geraldine Boone has been an educator for more than 27 years. A third grade teacher in New Brunswick, she is active in the areas of arts and recreation. Boone is also the fundraising chairperson of her New Brunswick school's PTA. In addition to shaping the minds of young people at the elementary level, she is an academic advisor at Rutgers University. Boone is currently President of the PAYDTA Tennis Club and the Crossroads Theatre Guild. She is also a member of the Crossroads Theatre Guild and serves on the Board of Trustees of Crossroads Theatre. A member of St. James AMG Zion Church of Perth Amboy since 1970, she has also taught Sunday School for twenty five years. "I believe that we should all do whatever we can to help people," Geraldine says, "and as much as we can do at all times."



Brenda Cooney

For over 20 years, Brenda Cooney has been an advocate for the health and welfare of young people. As President of Middlesex County Alliance for the Mentally Ill, she has been an invaluable asset, providing education and support for families and friends. The Journey of Hope, a program Brenda chairs, offers free assistance to any person having difficulty dealing with Mental Health. The everyday lives of autistic children are made easier through Ms. Cooney's work at the Piscataway Regional Day School. She is also a member of the Middlesex County Women on Disability, the Middlesex County Lyme Disease Support Group, and the Middlesex County Health Board-Advocate and Empowerment Committee. Brenda has been a Girl Scout leader since 1976.



Thomas Bracken

Thomas Bracken is President/CEO of CoreStates Bank for the State of New Jersey. A strong believer in giving every person the opportunity to achieve their personal goals, Thomas prides himself in his strong belief in diversity and his efforts to that end. "Accomplishing diversity can only be done through a true merit system where no discrimination takes place," he says. Bracken was recently appointed by Gov. Whitman to serve on the Board of Trustees of the College of New Jersey (formerly Trenton State College). He is a member of the board of the New Jersey Network Foundation, the New Jersey State Chamber and the New Jersey Cancer Institute.



Martin Cox

A Lifelong Plainfield resident Martin Cox is co-founder and president of the Youth for Action Movement, Inc. The organization, which consists of 51 African-American males whose goal is to change the negative images of African-American men in society, has been an active force in the community. Their concentrated areas of work include youth athletics and recreation. Over 3000 families in Plainfield have benefited from their contributions to programs such as Pop Warner Football and Plainfield Babe Ruth Baseball. YAM has been awarded a \$10,000 grant for their Stay in School program by the State Department of Human Services. In his professional career, Mr. Cox acts as a consultant through his company MP Cox International.



Iry Byrd

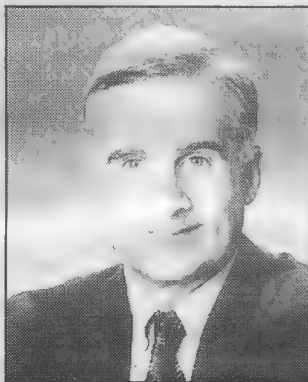
Iry Byrd is the Inter-corporate Liaison of the Council of Action for Minority Professionals. She is credited with establishing the first New Jersey corporate forum consisting of 13 Fortune 500 companies, all having minority organizations within them, to address issues and concerns that affect the black community. Iry is also co-chairperson for Women in Support of the Million Man March, where she was instrumental in the purchase of the historic Feigenspan Mansion in Newark for the organization. She has served on the Hillside Zoning Board for a 4-year term. Iry boasts twenty-six years experience as an accomplished telecommunications manager. She is presently Assistant Manager in Network Operations at Bell-Atlantic.



Mary W. Cudjoe

Mary Cudjoe has the task of ensuring public awareness of Dr. Martin Luther King's ideals and philosophy. As Executive Director of the New Jersey Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission, she acts as advisor to the 45 members of the Commission and provides staff support to the board. In addition, Cudjoe oversees grant awards and serves as the Secretary of State's representative. Mary Cudjoe is inspired by the legacy and living words of King and considers her work in conjunction with New Jersey's Many Faces-One Family among her greatest accomplishments. Mary is also the Ethics Liaison Officer (ELO) and the Affirmative Action Officer (AAO) for the Department of State.

Congratulations to PSE&G's City News 100 Most Influential Honorees



Al Koepp
Senior Vice President,
Corporate Services and External Affairs
Eagle Award Recipient



John H. Maddocks
Vice President,
Public Affairs



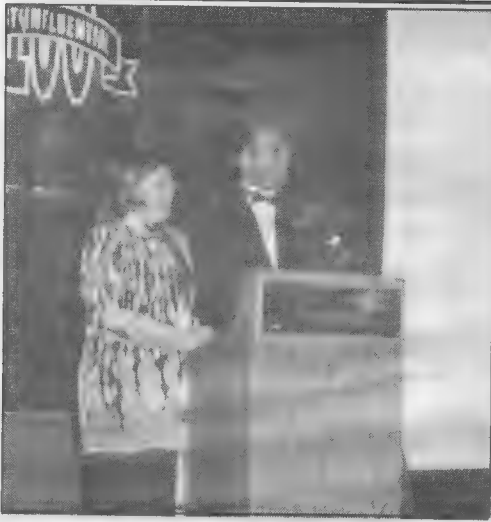
John R. Smith
Manager of Strategic Public Affairs
Regulatory



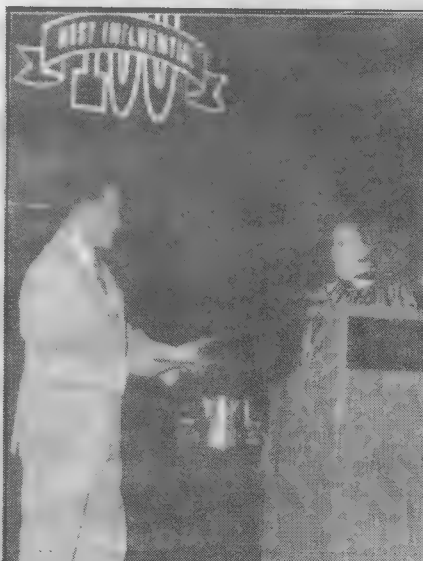
Gail Davis
Urban Initiatives Executive

PSE&G is proud to congratulate Al Koepp for his Eagle Award as well as our other City News 100 Most Influential honorees. These awards from City News underscore PSE&G's dedication to all of our state's residents and our ongoing commitment to making New Jersey neighborhoods work.

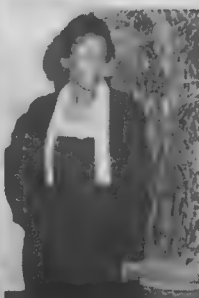
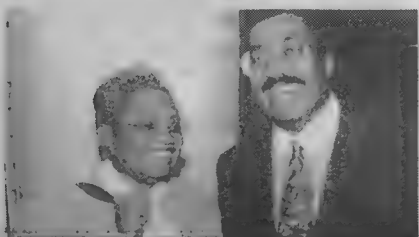
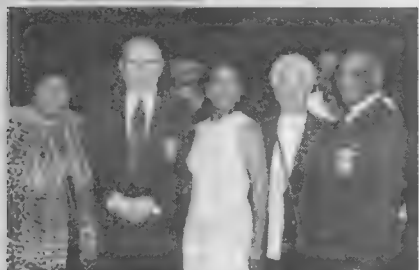
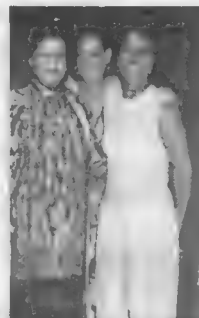
The Power of Commitment
 **PSE&G**



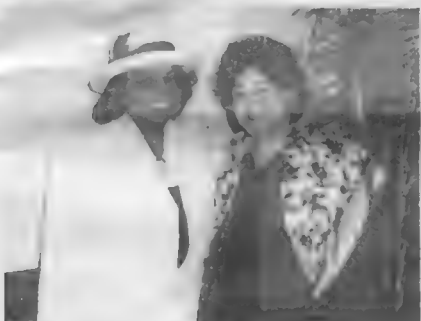
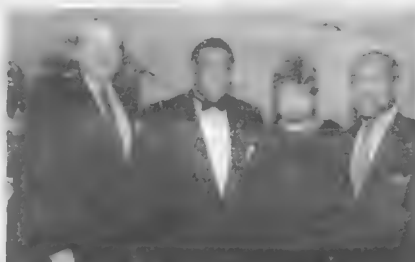
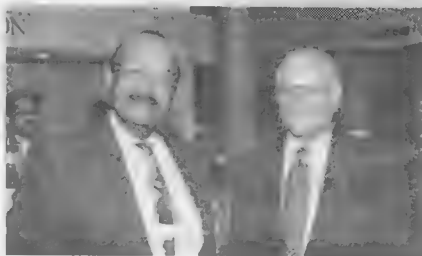
***Highlights of
the 2nd Annual
City News
100 Most Influential***

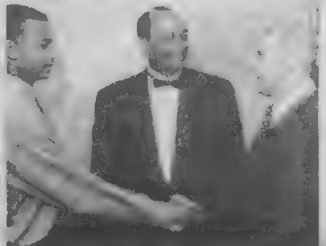
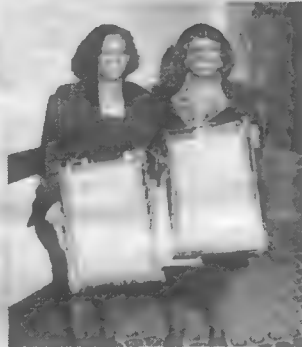
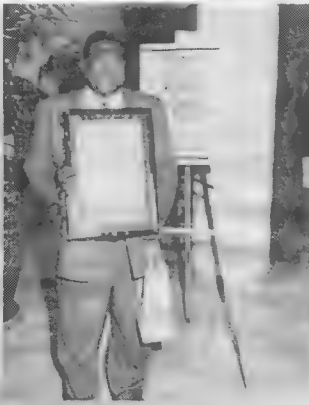
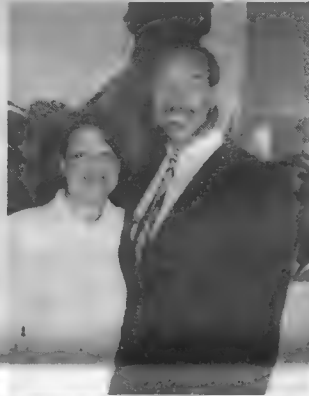
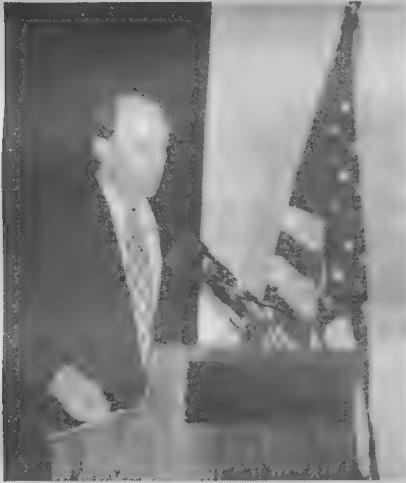


CELEBRATING ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND

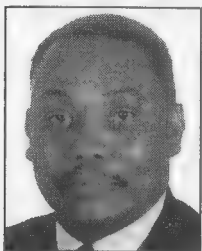


PARTNERING TO REBUILD OUR COMMUNITIES





Community Service (Continued)



Miguel Edghill

For the past 11 years, Miguel Edghill has been a tireless advocate for the Plainfield community, involving himself in many educational and civic activities. Edghill is currently the President of the F.W. Cook School Advisory Council (CSAC), a member of the School LINCC (Leadership, Innovation and Change Council), and President of the Barbados Charitable Organization of New Jersey. He is credited with improving the atmosphere of openness at the CSAC, resulting in the rise in number of parents and staff attending meetings. For the Charitable Organization, he has successfully raised funds for the purchase of a Dialysis machine in a Barbados hospital used by a number of Caribbean countries. Miguel, by profession, is an account representative at MetLife and serves as the Secretary of MetLife's African-American Marketing Group.



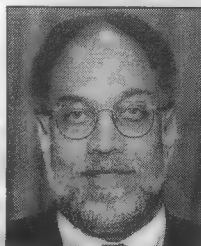
Dr. Webster B. Trammell

Dr. Webster Trammell has been involved in education administration for nearly twenty eight years. Trammell, who has been an active participant in community-based organizations, is currently the Vice President for Planning and Development at Brookdale Community College. He is responsible for the school's planning and development for governmental relations and resource development. His inspiration, he says, comes from a desire to give back to the community that supported his educational endeavors. Dr. Trammell has also dedicated himself to working with various organizations: He is the Director of the United Way of Monmouth County and Chairman of the Monmouth County Urban League Board of Directors. Webster Trammell is the recipient of many awards and citations recognizing his efforts in education.



Marion Fowler

Employment and community service are very important to Marion Fowler. Fowler's motivation lies in helping others start their own businesses. She is the Executive Director of Candace Enterprises, a management consulting firm, which in 1985 expanded to include a training center for computer applications and human resource development. Of her first graduating class, five of the six graduates received employment offers, giving the program publicity throughout the county. This accomplishment brought community support for the program's continuation. Marion's community involvement also includes assisting the homeless through her work with the McCloud Foundation. She is the Vice President of the Coalition of 100 Black Women and is an active participant in the NAACP and the Black Women's History Conference.



Don Viapree

With Don Viapree's help, Newark Emergency Services for Families and Newark's Homeless Healthcare Through Comic Relief have been the benefactors of several fundraising efforts. Don, a graduate of Bowling Green State University, is the Assistant General Manager at Cablevision of Newark. Considered an authority in the field of communications, he has worked in the cable industry for 15 years. He is a member of the Newark Arts Council, the Garden State Association of Black Journalists, the International Youth Organization and The Black Leadership Commission on AIDS. "Voluntary tasks represent an ineluctable magnet," he says of his efforts. "I willingly support and dedicate myself to groups who strive to improve our current state of condition."



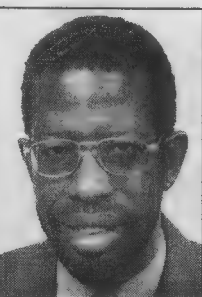
Avery Grant

A constant advocate of human and civil rights, Avery Grant participated in the first Peace Prayer March on Washington and sat at lunch counter sit-ins in Louisville, Kentucky. He is a retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel and a Vietnam Veteran. Grant is currently the Secretary of the Board of Directors for EXODUS, Inc., a rehabilitation halfway residence for substance abuse. Presently, Mr. Grant, who is a professional Engineer, acts as the Public Liaison for the Scott Conover Youth Foundation. Through his work, he encourages youth to participate in recreational and academic activities.



Mary E. Mathis-Ford

Mary E. Mathis-Ford is known for her outstanding work in pre-natal education for young women and her commitment to the community. For twenty years, she has worked for Planned Parenthood Metropolitan New Jersey and is the Coordinator Outreach of the branch's Education and Community Relations Department. For the past eight years, Mary has been the chairperson of UMDNJ's Board of Concerned Citizens, co-founding and organizing Harmony Day. She has appeared on television and radio to talk about teen pregnancy and family planning. Mary is also a member of the Essex County Mental Health Board, a former member of Bloomfield College EOF Board, and member of Elmwood United Presbyterian Church.



Harry Paden

As Educational Liaison to Irvington Mayor Sara Bost, Harry Paden keeps the Mayor informed about issues that will enhance the delivery of education to Irvington students. Mr. Paden communicates directly with adults in the community and relays the concerns of Irvington's youth and parents to the Mayor. In his spare time, Paden gives of his efforts as a part-time Parent Coordinator for the Irvington Board of Education. He stresses the importance of parents playing an active role in their Children's education. A graduate of American University, Harry Paden is the Chairman of the Essex County Superior Courts Juvenile Conference Committee.

City News

*proud to
serve New
Jersey's
African-
American and
urban
communities
for 13 years*

City News, published each Wednesday, focuses on the news, events, and interests of African-American communities in New Jersey. Its primary target market is the Metropolitan Newark area with additional distribution in Bergen, Hudson, Passaic, Union, Middlesex, Monmouth and Mercer Counties.

City News regularly features local community news, editorials, commentary by local columnists, area business news, political commentary, entertainment and religious news. Calendars of events, health and fitness reports, education and youth news are regular features.

City News stands as an intelligent, sensible and motivating voice of, for and by the African-American population in New Jersey and is a great medium for public and legal notices, display and classified advertising.

HEALTH, SCIENCE, & TECHNOLOGY

"We get closer to God as we get more intimately and understandingly acquainted with the things He has created. I know of nothing more inspiring than that of making discoveries for one's self."

-George Washington Carver

This category honors those individuals who continue to support the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of our community. These individuals, in the advance of medical, scientific, and technological fields, have improved the quality of life, increased longevity, and helped our people enjoy life to its fullest potential.



Richard B. Ahlfeld

Children's Specialized Hospital, a state-wide, non-profit, 115 bed rehabilitation specialty hospital system in Mountainside is run by its President, Richard Ahlfeld. Employed at the hospital since 1974, and named CEO in 1985, Mr. Ahlfeld is responsible for guiding the development of a system geared toward the special needs of children. A constant supporter of Medicaid, he has written several articles in its defense while Congress grapples with changing the current system. Mr. Ahlfeld has been on the board of the local American Red Cross and a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Westfield, NJ. He is presently a member of the Executive Board of the Sloan Alumni Association and serves as a trustee of the National Association of Children's Hospitals.



Dr. Francine Essien

Dr. Francine Essien, a committed professor in the Division of Life Sciences at Rutgers University, has founded or co-founded a number of programs geared towards helping youth as they pursue science-related careers. She established the Office of Minority Undergraduates Science Programs (OMSUP) at Rutgers, where she also serves as director. It is her goal to increase the number of African-American and Latino professionals in the fields of science and engineering. Dr. Essien has directed some of her research efforts toward the field of developmental genetics with a focus on environmental factors in causing birth defects. Dr. Essien,

who founded the Success in the Sciences Program and ACCESS-MED, has received awards from the National Technical Association and was named US Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.



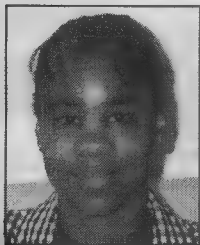
Mark J. Chastang

Mark J. Chastang is dedicated to providing affordable and quality healthcare to his hospital's patients. As President/CEO of East Orange General and Essex Valley Healthcare, Inc., one of the largest and most diversified healthcare organizations in New Jersey, Chastang oversees matters pertaining to all companies of Essex County Healthcare. Chastang has raised the level of service and respect from the ~~East Orange Community Hospital~~ for his facilities and expanded the number of managed care contracts for patients. Mark says he is dedicated to the idea that quality healthcare is affordable to everyone.



Beverley Henderson

"Giving back to the community is the price we pay for being here on earth," says Beverley Henderson. Henderson is the President of Essex County Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies, an organization whose goal is to provide planning assistance to funded projects that provide child health and maternal services. The largest coalition of its kind, it is comprised of 70 health agencies, fourteen outreach programs and recently received approval of a \$3 million Healthy Start grant from the federal government. Henderson also serves as Executive Director of Essex Comprehensive, a comprehensive healthcare center.



Dana Cunningham

Dana Cunningham's work has enabled her to be both a crusader in finding new ways to save lives and for equality in the workplace. Dana is a Research Scientist for Hoechst Marion Roussel, Inc., and a member of the HELPP (Hoechst Employees Linking People and Progress), a minority-based group that provides networking opportunities for the company's African-American employees. Dana is a former member of the Life Science Group's Equality Committee at HMR, where her responsibility was to help the organization ensure that employees had a work-environment that promoted corporate equality and quality values.



Ronald E. West

Civic and community-minded, Ronald West has contributed to the building of a state-of-the-art 32,000 square foot health care facility. West, who serves as the Chairperson of the Board of the Plainfield Health Center, is a member of the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center Board of Governors and Chairperson of the Stevens Technical Enrichment Program Community Advisory Board. Involved in several civic and community organizations, he is also the Manager of Telecommunications and Office Automation for Shearman & Sterling. He contributed to the design of a technical infrastructure that helped the company's business process and employee productivity. In his current position, he is responsible for the planning, budgeting and worldwide management of the voice, data, image, messaging and office automation services of the company.

The Minority Business Journal of New Jersey

Highlighting New Jersey & New York's Minority Business leaders since 1987

The *MINORITY BUSINESS JOURNAL OF NEW JERSEY AND NEW YORK (MBJNJ/NY)*, a monthly publication, focuses on minority business enterprise in New Jersey and New York City. *MBJ* regularly features the accomplishments of minority businesses, information concerning maintaining and expanding business, opportunities available for minority entrepreneurs, a calendar of events, editorial and commentary - issues facing minority businesses.

MBJ offers an excellent forum for classified and display advertising and special business and professional card directories. Each month, *MBJ* also contains a special section on a topic of interest to minority entrepreneurs.

MBJ provides an important communication link in the information network vital to the growth and economic development of minority business communities.

CORPORATE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Not all companies have a direct stake in central cities, even in the cities near which they are located. However, all have a stake in the nation's broader economic and social health. Alarmed by the threat to social order, the injustice and the nation's distressed inner cities business leaders should be among the nation's most vocal advocates and active participants in urban community building.

-statement by the Research and Policy Committee of the Committee of Economic Development

This category represents those persons who through their corporate position or involvement demonstrate the highest social responsibility in the communities in which they are located or do business.



Dennis Baldassari

Dennis Baldassari, President and Chief Operating Officer of the General Public Utilities Corporation, has continually supported diversity in education and mentoring efforts with high school students. He has broadened GPU's and specifically JCP&L's support in the Urban Suburban Conference Leadership Program and the diversity program. His leadership in the Leadership Circle Program has allowed for participation of thirteen other companies to help support the spread of diversity in education within high schools. He is also a supporter in mentoring at Dover, Asbury Park, and Morristown High Schools. Mr. Baldassari is a member of the New Jersey Business-Higher Education Forum.



Dorinda Jenkins-Glover

Dorinda Jenkins-Glover is a prominent member of New Jersey business and community service organizations. She has served on the advisory board of the Community Agencies Corporation, and has received the 1995-1996 Past Chairperson's Award of the Union County Urban League and the 1992 Twin Program Tribute Award from the Princeton Area YWCA. Since last year, she served as Marketing Director of Summit Bank, overseeing the bank's advertising, marketing and communication strategy. Dorinda has been instrumental in the progress and development of a number of employees within the company.



Dale Caldwell

As Management Consultant at the Deloitte & Touche Consulting Group, Dale Caldwell focuses on increasing revenue for school districts, public hospitals, counties and states. During his tenure with the company, Dale has helped establish the Deloitte & Touche LLP Association of Black and Latino Employees (ABLE). The organization has mentored Black and Latino Employees, worked with the United Way to feed over 300 people in five countries and collected over \$20,000 worth of clothes which were donated to Harmony House in Newark and the YMCA in Plainfield.

Dale is the founder of Operation Education Incorporated (OEI), an organization responsible for the international "Take Your Community to Work Day" which encourages students in poor areas to learn the inner workings of business and the professions.



Joseph Karas

Joseph Karas, a native of Cairo, Egypt, has given of his services to the community for nearly 20 years. Joe serves as AT&T's Vice President, Brand Management Development and Innovation. He is responsible for the marketing, service delivery, customer satisfaction and profitability of AT&T residential and small business customers in the communities in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware. Prior to obtaining that post, Joe served as the Director of the Communications Services Group, where he designed and led executive leadership strategy forums for corporate direction and development.



Toni Fay

Toni Fay has made an indelible mark at Time Warner, Inc. She is the company's first Black female corporate officer. As Vice President of Community Relations, Toni is responsible for Time Warner's public and social responsibility activities. The recipient of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Award, Fay has also developed key projects for Warner. She created "Time To Read," the largest corporate-sponsored literacy program in the nation which instructs over 100,000 youth and adults; Songs of My People, the international exhibition; and an exhibition designed to promote

discussions about diversity titled "It's US: A Celebration of Who We Are in America." In addition, Toni was appointed, by President Clinton, to the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board.



John H. Maddocks

Encouraged by an obligation to aid urban residents in obtaining job opportunities, quality education and affordable housing, John H. Maddocks is at the forefront of community involvement. He is responsible for Renaissance Newark, a private, non-profit corporation dedicated to the economic revitalization of Newark's downtown business district. He is also Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Newark Watershed Conservation and Development Corporation. Maddocks has won many awards for his community service, including the Humanitarian Award from the

National Conference of Christians and Jews. John Maddocks is the Vice President of Public Affairs for Public Service Electric & Gas. He oversees the company's corporate contributions, governmental relationships and community affairs. His civic duties include a post as Chairman of the Economic Development Committee of the NJ State Chamber of Commerce and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Newark Watershed Conservation.



Patricia A. Fields

Patricia A. Fields dedicates her time to helping guide the lives of teenage parents. She organized the Volunteer component of the Plainfield Teen Parenting Program, which consists of 40 corporate and community volunteers, and serves as its director of volunteer activities. The program has a 98% graduation rate among all of the seniors who have participated. Pat is also President of School Based Youth Services, and assisted in the creation and served as coordinator of the annual "A Festival for Kids", which celebrates the lives of children from birth to 10 years old. Patricia works as the Human Resources Manager for Lucent Technologies.



Cynthia J. Moore

Cynthia Moore, Regional Manager, Corporate Affairs for Anheuser Busch is known for her professional and personable demeanor, a trait that serves her well as the director of Anheuser Busch Companies' Community Affairs Initiatives. Born in Newark, Cynthia has underwritten and supported non-profit organizations by helping the beverage company give back to the community that supports it. Prior to joining Anheuser Busch, she spent 10 years with Seagram, working in various areas within the human resources department. Moore is the driving force behind such affairs as the

Congressional Black Caucus Weekend and the New Jersey Black Issues Convention in Newark. She also serves as a youth mentor for three young ladies who are "destined for great things." She has received undergraduate and graduate degrees from Montclair State College.

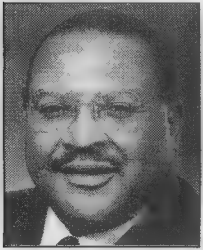
Corporate Community Involvement (Continued)



Garret G. Nieuwenhuis

Garret Nieuwenhuis is the Senior Vice President for Community Development for Valley National Bank. Garret's position requires that he oversee the bank's responsiveness to the social and economic needs of various communities. He also acts as Valley National's Community Reinvestment officer, responsible for overseeing the bank's lending, service and investment activities. He is most proud of being able to promote Valley National as an organization with a strong sense of "community." He is proud of the positive results he has seen within the communities from Valley National's

various programs. He is on several committees on the Eastern Christian School Association, Vice President of Board of Directors of the Paterson Habitat for Humanity, a Board member of New Community Development Loan Corporation in Newark, and a First Vice President of the Housing Partnership of Morris County.



John R. Smith

John R. Smith, Manager of Strategic Public Affairs-Regulatory, has dedicated himself to the development of youth. For six years, Smith has successfully run a recreation program for more than 200 boys and girls between the ages of 8-15. Smith, who has been an employee at PSE&G for more than 29 years, has contributed his time and efforts to more than 30 civic, education and professional non-profit organizations. He is also responsible for helping establish the NJ Chapter of the American Association of Blacks in Energy.



William Wolverton

William Wolverton has recently been named Summit Bank's executive vice president and director of branch banking, and it is in this position that he continues his contribution to the urban community. In the past, Wolverton has helped in the design and development of loans in urban areas and created an urban banking firm to include all groups. He is responsible for managing Summit banks in six regions throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He also serves as a trustee for public radio station WBGO in Newark, and director of the non-profit organization Inroads, whose mission it is to prepare minority students for positions in corporate America. William Wolverton has served as director of the Bergen County Boy Scouts of America.

CIVIL RIGHTS

"If a man hasn't discovered something he will die for, he isn't fit to live."

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

This category represents service to the community in the promotion, protection, and advancement of those fundamental human rights protected by the United States Constitution and the UN Declaration of Human Rights.



John Robertson

For more than twenty years, John Robertson has been of service to the New Jersey community. He is responsible for endowing a \$10,000 scholarship at Rahway High School to benefit an underprivileged student each year, and has been a longtime and active participant in the NAACP. Since the late 70s, Robertson has served a two-year term as first vice-president in the local branch which was later followed by a ten-year term as president. Active in the NAACP's Stay in School Program, he also serves on the committee on AIDS and has chaired the State Prison Branch program. Robertson

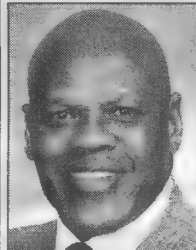
also gives of his time and effort as chairman, board member and funding committee member of the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation of Greater New York. Mr. Robertson is an independent consultant who helps individuals secure home mortgage and small business loans.

ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS

"Our elevation must be the result of self-efforts and work of our own hands. No other human power can accomplish it. If we but determine it shall be so, it will be so."

-Martin R. Delany

This category represents the individual who has engaged minds through their creativity and athletic capability. By striving to be the "best of the best, these individuals have inspired others to use limits as mere benchmarks for excellence.



Milt Campbell

Milt Campbell changed the course of Olympic history by becoming the first black man ever to win a medal in the Olympic Decathlon. In 1952, Campbell won the Silver medal and four years later took home the Gold medal for the same event. Campbell, who says he is inspired by the knowledge that we have the ability to overcome any obstacle that is placed before us, is now a Professional Speaker for his own company, Milt Campbell Enterprises. He gives motivational and personal development presentations to corporate employees and students at schools across the country.



James Mtume

For more than twenty years, Grammy Award-winning songwriter, musician, producer James Mtume created and defined 70s and 80s soul. Today's music listeners can easily recognize the songs he has written, as many of them have become classics etched into the psyche of modern culture. Mtume penned classic hits for Roberta Flack ("The Closer I Get To You"), Stephanie Mills ("Never Knew Love Like This Before"), Phyllis Hyman ("You Know How To Love Me") and his own band, MTUME ("Juicyfruit"). Mtume is presently working as the only Black composer for a dramatic series, for

the show New York Undercover. Mtume, who also co-hosts the weekly radio talk show "Open Line" on WRKS-FM with Bob Slade, is currently working on projects set for release on his label, Reel to Real Records (MCA). He lists his years spent as a percussionist with Miles Davis as one of his greatest career accomplishments.

Minority Business- To-Business Directory *Linking Minority Businesses to the Marketplace*

The Minority Business-to-Business Directory is a directory of minority owned businesses and companies committed to doing business with minorities.

The Directory networks minority businesses, identifies minority businesses with whom public and private sector businesses and agencies can contract for products and services, and exposes a growing force of minority businesses to the general consumer. The Directory features listings and advertising as well as provides a resource guide for minority entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs to help facilitate starting and maintaining a business.

The Minority Business-to-Business Directory includes listings from public and private sector businesses and agencies, minority and women-owned businesses and small businesses. A delineation of ownership is provided with each listing. The Minority Business-to-Business Directory is another tool for the growth and expansion of minority entrepreneurs and economic development in the African-American community.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*"At the bottom of education, at the bottom of politics,
even at the bottom of religion, there must be for our people economic independence."*

Booker T. Washington

Our great leaders remind us of our legacy, our promise to lift our people up to their rightful place as leaders, as people who made a difference. In today's world we recognize that economic parity must serve as a plank in the platform on which change shall be built. This category honors the individuals whose work has a primary impact on creating that platform. Their tireless work continues to enhance the distribution, production, and consumption of goods and services in our urban communities. These unsung heroes are creating jobs, promoting growth, and engineering the greater distribution of economic resources in the community.



Yvonne Bonitto-Doggett

Yvonne Bonitto-Doggett, founder of the Kentucky Avenue Renaissance Festival, has spearheaded an annual event that has attracted interest and investment prospects from the public sector. According to Bonitto-Doggett, the festival, which is now in its sixth year, was "created for the purpose of celebrating and recreating the excitement of a cultural era historically significant to the African-American community." Her efforts have resulted in commitments by major companies to invest in the economic, social and cultural development of the Atlantic City area. Mrs. Bonitto-Doggett is the Deputy Director of the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority in Atlantic City, New Jersey.



Guy McCombs

Through his live, radio talk program, Guy McCombs assists callers with their questions and concerns about starting and maintaining their small, woman and minority-owned businesses. The show, which airs on NJN-FM is titled The Business Plan and helps these business owners plan their strategies and goals toward economic empowerment. McCombs has an impressive twenty years in the communications and market research fields and is the President & CEO of THIRD POWER Market, Development, Inc., the largest minority-owned firm of its kind in the northeast. He is also a continual contributor to cultural development through his work with the media. Currently, Dr. McCombs is the public relations Community Counsel for the NJPAC. He is also a

member of the Newark Public Schools Capital Projects Control Board and the Treasurer of the Independence School of Newark.



J. Frederick Canady

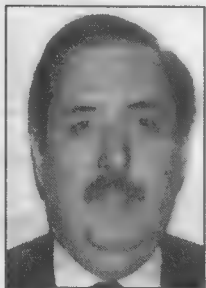
J. Frederick Canady, Director of the Pepsi-Cola company's Minority Business Development Program, has been instrumental in the development and promotion of minority-owned businesses. Since he assumed the responsibility of directing Pepsi-Cola Company's minority business development (MBE) program in 1994, Frederick has fostered a number of business partnerships with minority vendors. Canady, who says he appreciates the opportunity to give other persons of color a chance to grow in business, has been instrumental in the growth of African-American, Asian and Latino business. He has also helped increase the monies Pepsi-Cola spends with minority vendors.



Preston D. Pinkett III

Preston D. Pinkett has received recognition and accolades for his dedication to economic and community development. A recipient of Proclamations from Paterson and Newark for his contributions to urban development, Mr. Pinkett has also excelled in his work at PNC Bank. As the bank's Senior Vice President, he is responsible for statewide management of community and economic development. Prior to this position, Pinkett was the Senior Planner of the New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing, and currently serves on many community boards, including on the Camden

Trust Foundation and the New Jersey Community Loan Fund. Preston serves as Chairman of the New Jersey Bankers Association Community Reinvestment Committee and is a board member of the New Jersey Community Loan Fund and the Camden Trust Foundation. Preston D. Pinkett is a graduate of Cornell University, School of Industrial and Labor Relations.



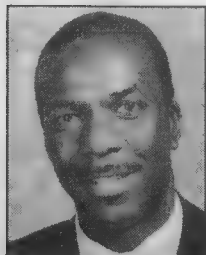
Frank J. Gramo

Frank Gramo says that by assisting in the development of minority business, he is contributing to his belief in diversity. Gramo, who is a Purchasing Manager for Bell Atlantic, is responsible for the Minority and Women Business Enterprise Program. In conjunction with his Bell Atlantic contracting team, the program has awarded \$30 million dollars to women-owned companies. Over the past five years, Gramo's contracting team has also signed and awarded sixty-two contracts, totaling \$32.4 million, with minority firms. Frank Gramo is a member of the Board of Directors for the New York/New Jersey Minority Purchasing Council.



Joseph Yeoman

Joseph Yeoman believes that a strong community benefits everyone. As President/Executive Officer of the Teamsters Local #331, he participates in and supports activities for union members, their families and the community. All proceeds from the organization's activities - such as an annual scholarship talent show, flea markets, silent auctions and multi-cultural festivals, - are distributed throughout the community in the form of clothing, toys, holiday food baskets and are also used to underwrite community programs. A man of several firsts, Yeoman is the first African-American President of the Teamsters Local 331 and was the first African-American President of the Local 115 in Philadelphia.



Larry J. Jenkins

During his 17 years in corporate America, Larry J. Jenkins, has been instrumental in the relationship between the corporation and the community it serves. Jenkins has been appointed by Trenton Mayor Doug Palmer to the Enterprise Initiative Coordinating Committee and has participated in the Mayor's Mentoring Program. As Vice President and Manager for CoreStates Bank, he manages the bank's Community Business Lending Group, and is responsible for the management and growth of the community business banking portfolio in the state. Larry also unselfishly gives of his time to work with organizations such as the George Washington Council Boy Scouts of America.

POLITICS, LAW, & GOVERNMENT

"A community is democratic only when the humblest and weakest person can enjoy the highest civil, economic, and social rights that the biggest and most powerful possess."

A. Philip Randolph

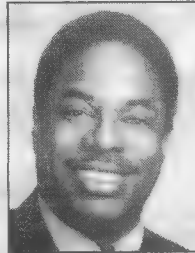
This category highlights those people who have made, and continue to make, a positive difference in the creation of governmental policy, the establishment and administration of justice, and the maintenance of a democratic society.



Cardell Cooper

Cardell Cooper is the youngest person ever elected to serve as Mayor of the city of East Orange. Under his leadership, the city has seen a resurgence of civic pride and community involvement. East Orange has also become nationally recognized for its initiatives to develop public and private partnerships with social services, local businesses and community groups. In 1992, the city received two national awards from the United States Conference of Mayors for its efforts in summer employment and activities for youth. Cooper now serves on the advisory board of the United

States Conference of Mayors and was the former chair of its Health and Human Services Committee. Mr. Cooper was recently nominated the third-highest ranking official in the US Environmental Protection Agency.



Jerome C. Harris

As the Executive Director of the Institute for Urban and Public Policy at Rowan University, Jerome Harris has been responsible for the development of programs and services designed to impact the civic, economic, and social problems of the region. His family, as well as notable figures such as Ida B. Wells, Paul Robeson, and Dr. Samuel Proctor have been his inspiration in his more than twenty years of professional experience in the public sector. Harris was the founding President of the New Jersey Public Policy Research Institute, Co-Founder of the NJ Black Issues Convention, and former Assistant State Treasurer in New Jersey.



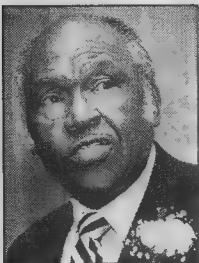
Mildred C. Crump

"I am guided by the needs of the community," says Councilwoman Mildred C. Crump. The first African-American woman elected to the Newark Municipal Council, Crump also says that as a legislator, she works to develop laws to address those needs. Mildred was also the "first" African-American Braille teacher to work in the city of Detroit. In addition to her council duties, Mildred hosts the television program "Straight Talk with Mildred Crump." In civic capacities, Crump serves on the Board of Directors of the Boys & Girls Club of Newark and the Executive Board of the Newark Branch of the NAACP. She is also affiliated with the National Rainbow Coalition, International Black Women's Congress, and the World Gospel Musical Association.



Honorable Janet Haynes

As Hudson County Clerk, the Honorable Janet Haynes is the highest ranking African-American official in the history of Hudson County, and the only African-American County Clerk to serve as a County Clerk in the State of New Jersey. Haynes brings to her post, 25 years of experience as an administrator in both the public and private sector. A founding member of the Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Haynes is also known for her work with Action for Sickle Cell Anemia, the Hudson County Urban League and a number of public and private organizations. Of her accomplishments thus far, Haynes says, "I have tried to be a role model and train young African-American professionals to be at the top of their careers and to be competent and competitive in the field of business."



Arthur A. Fletcher

Dr. Arthur A. Fletcher is affectionately known as "the father of the affirmative action enforcement movement," the federal government's initiative that helped change America's employment and education practices. In his 25 years on the national scene, Dr. Fletcher has served as assistant Secretary of Labor, a UN Delegate, the Deputy of Urban Affairs Advisor to President Gerald R. Ford, and Executive Director of the United Negro College Fund. He is currently President of Fletcher's Learning Systems Inc. In 1995, he was selected by the National Caucus and Center on Black Aged as the recipient of its Living Legacy Award. Fletcher currently owns and manages Fletcher's Learning Systems, Inc. which specializes in creating, producing and marketing audio and video cassette training products, work books and training manuals.



Barbara L. Hudgins

Atlantic City Council Member-At-Large Barbara L. Hudgins has brought growth and stability to her city, passing legislation that ensures city funds are spent appropriately. Hudgins, who passed legislation to create 20,000 new jobs for Atlantic City, is also responsible for the establishment of an Atlantic City Advisory Banking Committee. Her legislation will also provide job training to thousands of individuals who were previously unemployed or unemployable. Councilwoman Hudgins, who was once voted Teacher of the Year, was previously a math teacher for 30 years who inspired and encouraged African-American youth. She is currently serving her second term as Councilwoman.



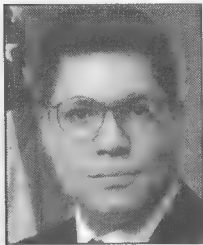
Nia H. Gill

In the more than 20 years that Assembly Democratic Whip Nia Gill has been involved in government, she has championed health and educational issues. As a representative of the 27th legislative district, and having served on the legislature's Education Funding task force, Gill has lobbied on behalf of higher education and adequate funding. She has also worked to broaden and clarify the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1990, to include stalking as domestic violence and a check-off for taxpayers to make voluntary contributions on gross income tax returns for Domestic Violence Shelters. A bill she sponsored that was signed into law in 1995 calls for health insurers to provide benefits that allow \$3,000 income tax deduction for families providing home care for elderly relatives.



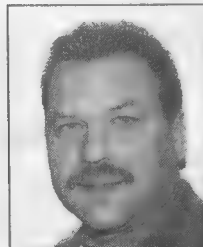
Maxine James

Maxine James, the first African-American woman to become a member of the Newark Jaycees - a national service organization, is the Administrative Assistant/Chief of Staff to Congressman Donald Payne. Ms. James is responsible for the operation of a congressional office with eighteen employees, three sites and a budget of \$974,000. James, who says she works to benefit her immediate community as well as the community-at-large, was born and raised in Newark's Central Ward. During her tenure as Chair of Newark Emergency Services for Families, she helped establish the Emergency Residence Program for families and individuals in need of shelter.

Politics, Law & Government (Continued)**Gualberto Medina**

Gualberto Medina is the first Hispanic Commissioner of the Department of Commerce & Economic Development. He is responsible for revitalizing the state's urban core in order to create jobs in New Jersey. Medina, who has expanded Urban Enterprise Zone programs, instituted set-aside regulations to level the playing field. As a councilman in Camden, he sponsored the first-ever affirmative action on the contracting ordinance in the city. Earlier in his career, he worked in Eastern Pennsylvania's Federal District Court, represented HUD in the Northeast US, and worked for and consulted with

various economic and business development organizations promoting major economic/commercial development projects in Philadelphia. Medina says it is his Hispanic roots that inspire him to make contributions to improve the quality of life for African-Americans, Hispanics, and all New Jerseyans.

**Michael Mordaga**

Children play a vital role in the life of Detective Lt. Michael J. Mordaga. As the founder and president of the Police Athletic League of Bergen County, he devotes 20 hours each week to run programs that provide recreational, social and educational activities for children. Over the past fifteen years, the PAL organization has helped hundreds of minority children with anti-drug efforts and job placement. Three years ago, Mordaga started a youth boxing program where nearly 200 community kids go to vent their frustration in the gym or in the ring, as opposed to the street. As a

Hackensack Police officer, he has been involved with thousands of criminal arrests and received over 130 commendations making him the most decorated police officer in Bergen County. Detective Mordaga believes that in order to make a difference we all must move in the same direction.

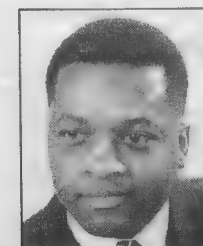
**Patricia Perkins-Auguste**

Councilwoman Patricia Perkins-Auguste was the first African-American woman elected in a primary election in the city of Elizabeth's 327 year history. Now serving her second term, she has set the precedence of being the only African-American female or male to be elected for two consecutive council terms. During her first term, Perkins-Auguste was instrumental in passing resolutions for the Million Man March by acquiring grant monies for several non-profit organizations to benefit HIV/AIDS victims and to conduct youth programs. Perkins-Auguste, who is also involved in several community and non-profit groups, serves on the Steering Committee for the African-American Political Alliance.

**Dr. Sandra Ann Robinson**

Imagine having your work as an attorney, teacher, and lecturer place you in the company of such notables as Fannie Lou Hamer, Martin Luther King, Jr., Muhammad Ali, and others. That has often happened to Dr. Sandra Robinson, who has spent her entire career contributing to the betterment of society. Dr. Robinson holds the distinction of becoming the first Black female Deputy Mayor in the City of Hackensack and the first Black female Assistant County Counsel in Bergen County New Jersey. Believing that dreams come true when another minority person can receive

aid to go to school or purchase a home, she successfully obtained Community Development Block Grant funds for more than \$3 million, which went to complete educational, housing, and cultural programs in New Jersey communities. She has received many awards, such as the NJEA Human Rights Award, and Sojourner Truth Award.

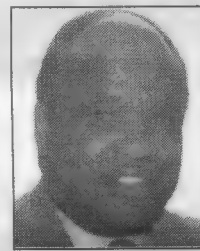
**Craig Stanley**

State Assemblyman Craig Stanley's work with youth is well noted. He credits the help he received as a black child in the projects with inspiring him to make a difference with today's children. As State Assemblyman, Stanley is the first African-American to represent the 28th legislative district. His work involves reviewing and proposing legislation that might effect his district and the state of New Jersey. He sits on the Education Committee as an advocate for public education, calling for school funding reform, and the improvement to education in urban schools. Assemblyman

Stanley also works with inner city high school children with the New Jersey Black Achievers Program, finding mentors from corporate America to work with them. He also volunteers with high school students, and teaches them about government and citizenship through the NJ YMCA Youth & Government program.

**Herbert Tate**

Herbert Tate can be credited with many -firsts- throughout the course of his career. He was the first African-American appointed to the positions of Assistant Administrator to the Environmental Protection Agency for Enforcement, Essex County Prosecutor, and President/Commissioner of the Board of Public Utilities. At present, Mr. Tate is the President of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. His current position requires that he sit as the head of a three commissioner body that regulates the electric, gas, telephone, cable and water utilities in the State of New Jersey. He is most proud of taking the electric, gas and telecommunications industries into competitive markets breaking the cycle of 80 years of rate regulation. Mr. Tate is also the Chairman of the New Jersey Energy Master Plan Commission, which sets energy policy for the State of New Jersey.

**James E. Young, Jr.**

The Teaneck Municipal Court is presided by Judge James Young. Judge Young, who has been a champion for justice for 18 years and who has given of himself as a teacher and mentor for more than 29, is responsible for the court's administration and operation. As a child, Young's parents taught him the importance of community involvement and the necessity of working to help others. It is as a judge and as an elder in the Presbyterian Church that he is able to do just that. Judge Young is also an instructor at Berkeley College and the Bergen County Police Academy, as well as a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the NAACP.

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I had to make my own living and my own opportunity...Don't sit down and wait for the opportunities to come; you have to get up and make them.

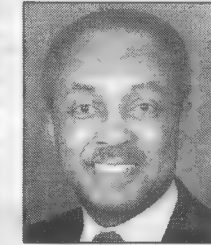
Madame C.J. Walker, 1914

The entrepreneurs and business owners honored this evening, are working to harness the powerful resources of commerce and industry which we currently support as consumers participating in establishing businesses and business organizations that foster economic and professional growth.



Howard Banks

Howard Banks, a professional cosmetologist, is the first male president of the Modern Beauticians Association - a position he has held for two years. Throughout his career, Mr. Banks has also helped educate many individuals in the beauty/cosmetology industry. As a result, more than 40 salons have opened because of his guidance and input. According to Howard, his motivation is to make sure that people of color look as good as any other group. In the field of cosmetology, he is considered a success in that regard. Mr. Banks says he is always there to help his fellow man and credits the Lord as being his strength and help.



William McCoy

A devoted community service provider who owns and operates four McDonald's restaurants in Elizabeth and Newark, William McCoy employs a staff of 200. Many of those employees are young people in search of summer and permanent employment. Mr. McCoy also works with several civic, community and business organizations. On occasion, he and his restaurant managers have visited University High School and Miller Street School to advise students on career opportunities and choices. And at one time, Mr. McCoy ran attendance incentive programs in 12 schools in Newark and 3 in Elizabeth. He is also the founder of the Community Action for Human Services, Inc., has served on the board of directors of the Newark YMCA and as Chairman of Mayor Sharpe James Affirmative Action Review Council.

Gregory Williams

Teaching young people the tools of the business trade and assisting in the growth of African-American business is important to Gregory Williams. For the past three years, he has volunteered to work with Granville Academy students (age 14-18), teaching them key business terms and practices. Mr. Williams is also actively affiliated with the NAACP, the Black Data Processing Associates, and the Mercer County Black Business Association, where he is also president. In addition, Williams represents the Mercer County Black Business Association in Trenton's Network of Business Associations and serves as facilitator for the Economic Development Authority's Entrepreneurial Training Institute. Gregory Williams is the President of G.W. Enterprises.

EDUCATION

"Real education means to inspire people to live more abundantly, to learn to begin with life as they find it, and make it better..."

-Carter G. Woodson

Knowledge is power. In a world which is producing some of the most advanced machines and information resources, our children are not keeping the pace with the demand to harness these resources. We face a challenge to prepare our children to become not just the members, but the leaders, of tomorrow's society. This category highlights those individuals who are facing that challenge head-on, whose initiatives and programs have made a significant impact on the training, guidance, teaching, instruction, and positive cognitive development of youth in urban communities.



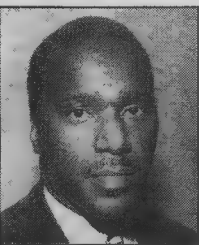
Dr. Thomas H. Brown

Dr. Thomas H. Brown is at the forefront of higher education. In July of 1990, he became President of Union County College - the oldest community college in the state of New Jersey. The school's outstanding faculty and academic programs are recognized through 80 articulation agreements with four-year colleges and universities. Under his direction, the Union County college opened a new Elizabeth campus, a new Plainfield campus, and a new Commons building on the college's Cranford campus. Dr. Brown, who earned his Doctor of Philosophy degree from New York University, has written articles that have appeared in The Encyclopedia of the United States Congress, The Lincoln Herald and Americas.



Donna Carter-Butler

If you watch the annual Lou Rawls Parade of Stars Entertainment Special benefiting the United Negro College Fund, and enjoy the program and its accomplishments, Donna Carter-Butler is among the first people to thank. Donna is the Executive Producer of the special and the Area Development Director for the College Fund/UNCF. In those capacities, she is responsible for raising \$3.3 million dollars every year to support the 40 UNCF Institutions. Donna is also responsible for UNCF's Educational Symposium and College Fair, exposing over 4,000 students to recruiters from those institutions. Her company, A'(u)ngie Productions, develops media projects that address and provide opportunities for youth to express themselves.



Alfred Bundy

Alfred Bundy, Founder and President of Bundy Productions, is the Director of Project 2000. Based at Seton Hall University, the program exposes elementary school students to positive male role models. Bundy at one time directed the school's Pre-Med Pre-Dent Plus Program and established the Reynolds Burch Scholarship Fund for students excelling in Seton Hall's medical curriculum. He was the first minority to serve on Essex County's Board of Education and now serves as the Chairman for cultural programming for the Cable Television Network of New Jersey. Alfred Bundy has more than 17 years experience in the fields of video production and public relations.



Joe Clark

Many remember Joe Clark as the subject of the film *Lean On Me*. But more important are the life accomplishments that led to the making of the film. Clark, a former Principal of Paterson's East Side High School, used his unique approach to discipline and education to change the troubled school into a "model" institution. Currently, Joe Clark is the Director of the Essex County Youth House, a juvenile detention center in Newark. Joe Clark's dedication to youth embodies a commitment to education and the desire to instill positive images and aspirations. Of his current work, he says, "I will stay until I have brought about change. I can't think of anything more noble." Joe Clark is also the author of the book *Laying Down the Law*.

Education (Continued)



Vera King Farris

Dr. Vera King Farris has served as President of Richard Stockton College of New Jersey for fourteen years. Prior to coming to Stockton, she served as Academic Vice President at Kean College; Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, State University of New York-Brockport; and Dean - State University of New York, Stony Brook. Dr. Farris, who has received honorary doctorates from various institutions, has been cited in Who's Who in American Education. She has had an illustrious career in the field of education and is the recipient of many awards for her community, educational, and civic service. Dr. Farris is a member of the Task Force on Educational Assessment and Monitoring and the Transfer Education Commission.



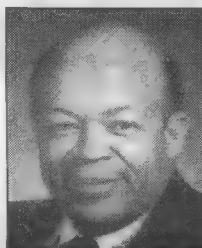
Toni Veasy

Realizing the importance of proper guidance of our young, Toni Veasy, Guidance Counselor at the Asbury Park Board of Education, says "As a past teacher of Mathematics and as a guidance counselor, I am inspired by the success of so many of my students." In addition to her work at the Board of Ed, Toni is a Key Club Advisor, a mentor in the Partnership for Success Mentor Program and a member of the Jersey Central Power and Light Company Educational Advisory Committee. She is also a Brookdale Community College Learning Assistant for Mathematics. Toni Veasy holds a Bachelors of Science - Mathematics from Rust College and a Masters of Science - Student Personnel Services from Kean College. She has been a recipient of the Charles D. Moody Award from the NJ Alliance of Black School Educators.



Dr. Beverly Hall

Dr. Beverly Hall has had a long-standing career in education. She is currently the State District Superintendent of Newark Public Schools, and, as such, is responsible for the leadership of the largest public school district in the state of New Jersey. The district includes 83 schools, 45,805 students, and over 8,073 staff members. Prior to her appointment as District Superintendent, she worked as the Deputy Chancellor for Instruction of the New York City public school system. She is proud of her selection for top educational leadership positions in two major urban centers.



Dr. Donald Warner

As Chief School Administrator of Red Bank Regional High School, Dr. Donald Warner supervises a staff of more than 175 teachers. Red Bank High School provides educational services to over 1000 students. Some of the school's programs include technology and college preparatory courses. Warner, who is a native of Pennsylvania, earned his Doctor of Education Degree at the Pennsylvania State University, instituted a "homework contract" between student, parent and the school and started a performing arts program. He is a member and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Brookdale Community College, a member of the Board of Trustees of Monmouth Medical Center, and President of the Groff Foundation and Whitman Foundation.



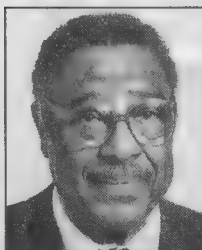
Dr. Larry Leverett

Dr. Larry Leverett has an extensive background in school reform. As Superintendent of Schools in Plainfield New Jersey, he brings a wealth of experience to Plainfield students. Leverett, who supervises a district that serves more than 7,000 students, is involved in the district's multi-year reform program and has taught curriculum at the secondary level. He has also worked as Superintendent in the Englewood School system. Leverett has obtained a reputation as a creative leader who encourages collaboration and acceptance of responsibility among other educators. Larry Leverett has served as a consultant with school districts across the country.



Trish Morris-Yamba

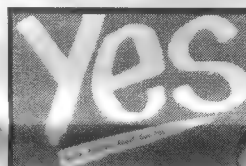
The Newark Day Center is a 194 year old multi-faceted social agency. Trish Morris-Yamba, Director of the center, is responsible for the running of the oldest social service agency in New Jersey and the third oldest in the nation. It is home to the Fresh Air Fund, which offers summer camp programs to inner city youth, as well as programs such as a child care center, training for parents, and a senior center. Trish, who is also the former host/producer of Channel 68's Black Spectrum, has been active in community and civic affairs for over three decades. Trish is listed in a number of Who's Who volumes and has received many awards for her work in the community.



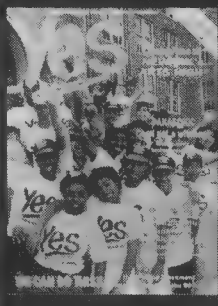
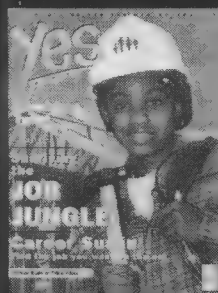
Dr. Samuel D. Proctor

Dr. Samuel Proctor has spent five decades as a pastor, teacher, lecturer, and author. He is Professor Emeritus of Rutgers University and Pastor Emeritus of New York's Abyssinian Baptist Church. Dr. Proctor has lectured and studied in countries around the globe and has written several books, including The Young Negro in America (1966), Preaching About Crises in the Community (1988), My Moral Odyssey (1989), and with Dr. William Watley, Sermons from the Black Pulpit (1984). Dr. Proctor has served as a member of several governing boards for the United Negro College

Fund, National Urban League, and the Union Theological Seminary of New York. He has served as an associate director of the Peace Corps under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson.



a positive
magazine for
urban teens who
want to succeed



YES, Youth Excited About Success, is the only magazine to focus on youth achievers in urban schools. Our distinctive journalistic style covers the scholastic and personal achievements of students nationwide, as well as offers useful information and resources to help young people succeed both in and out of the classroom

YES makes sense of the complex issues facing teens today. Our reporting focuses on a wide range of topics including tips on college and career, articles on health and fitness and news about the environment. YES educates and entertains by introducing teens to each other, heavily stressing peer to peer advice as a motivational tool. We also include those faces and personalities youth look up to, urging celebrity role models who have already tasted success to pass on tips to those up and coming.

YES attracts the brightest and most motivated teenagers in urban centers nationwide with the magazine's hip, colorful format. These are young people who want to know what's going on and what's up. They're interested in their own cities and they're looking around to see who's achieving in other parts of the country, too. Our readers are excited about success and are working hard to make it happen.

Parents support YES because they believe in their children's abilities and know we do, too. Parents realize our reporting is designed to make young people better students, as well as better people in the community.

Teachers and administrators support YES because it promotes achievement, positive behavior and motivation to succeed.

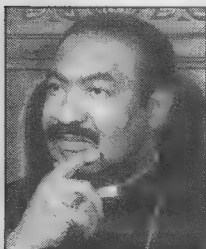
Our editorial mandate and philosophy is as distinctive as it is basic:
Place an emphasis on what's right with kids and what can help them to succeed.

RELIGION

"I can't talk religion to a man with bodily hunger in his eyes"

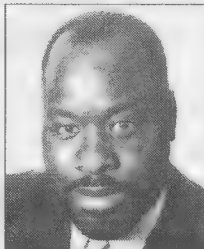
—George Bernard Shaw

Much of the advancement of our people has come from our firm belief in a Power greater than ourselves. The honorees in this category understand all too well the need to serve the body and the spirit through the programs and other activities they have undertaken as leader of their church.



Bishop William T. Cahoon

Georgia native Bishop William Cahoon has been an inspiring figure in church ministry since 1962. Cahoon, along with his wife Carolyn, founded the St. Andrews COGIC in Jersey City. He pastored there for twelve years, assisting in the church's growth and development. Bishop Cahoon is now the Pastor of the House of Prayer, Church of God In Christ in Plainfield, where he has ministered to and counseled congregation members since December of 1986. Bishop Cahoon is also the Executive Secretary of the National Board of Trustees of the Church of God in Christ. In 1993, he began giving of his time and effort to work with the New Garden State Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction as the Jurisdictional Prelate.

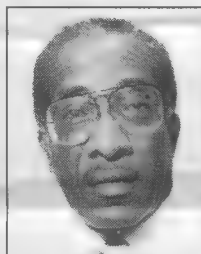


Reverend Calvin McKinney

Calvin McKinney, Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Garfield, New Jersey has used his ever-expanding ministry to serve and assist people throughout the United States. McKinney, who has also dedicated himself specifically to serving Garfield's religious community and youth as a whole, now serves as the President of the 300,000-member General Baptist Convention of New Jersey, and is the acting Director of the Youth Department, National Baptist Congress of Christian Education of the N.B.C., U.S.A., Inc. His civic duties include, former service as Commissioner of the Housing Authority of the City of Passaic, Board member of the Bergen County Urban League and Executive Board member of the Garfield/Lodi branch of the NAACP.

Who will be next years 100 Most Influential?

Look for Nomination forms in City New starting in September.



Reverend Donald Nichols

As Minister of Plainfield's Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Reverend Donald Nichols says his ministry "leads him to prepare and administer to the congregation through worship, and to provide for their spiritual needs." Nichols, who was ordained a minister in 1977, is a current member of the Concerned Urban Clergy of Plainfield, whose concerns are to address issues affecting the Plainfield community. Reverend Nichols has also served on the Plainfield Human Relations Commission, assuring that the public continues to be well-served. A graduate of Plainfield High School, Reverend Nichols remains an important and constant figure who gives of himself to serve the members of his church and the Plainfield community.



Reverend Charles Thomas

Hundreds of families and skilled craftsmen have been helped by facilities and projects developed by Reverend Charles Thomas. Thomas, pastor of Newark's New Hope Baptist Church since 1968, spearheaded the opening of centers that have refurbished and developed the Newark community. Thomas is responsible for New Hope Day Care Center which provides daily care to hundreds of children. The New Hope Skills Center, and started the Minority Contractors and Craftsmen Trade Association. He also organized the New Hope Development Corporation which spawned "New Hope Village," a 170-family housing complex in Newark. Thomas, who "believes in the need to nourish the mind, body and spirit via education, training skill enhancement and bible study," has given new meaning to community development.



Reverend William D. Watley, Ph.D.

William D. Watley, Pastor of St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church in Newark, has a congregation of more than 3,025. The church, which has brought in 2,500 new congregation members through its tithing program, has a Feeding program which feeds over 10,000 homeless people each year. Watley, who has been listed in Who's Who in Black America, is on the Executive Committee of Newark Fighting Back and is the Chairperson of Newark Neighborhood, Inc. Reverend Watley, a believer in education, was instrumental in developing and implementing the St. James Preparatory School in Newark. The school focuses on preparing young men and women from Essex and the surrounding counties for leadership in their chosen fields.

MEDIA, ARTS & CULTURE

"There's no idea in the world that is not contained by black life. I could write forever about the black experience in America."

-August Wilson

This category reflects the work of those individuals who have helped to inform us about the black experience, the changing world around us, the diversity of ideas which strengthens us, and the constructs, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors which bind us as a society.



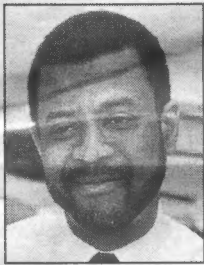
Alonzo Adams

Alonzo Adams' art focuses on the images of African-Americans. Alonzo, who was born in Harlem, NY, but grew up in Plainfield, New Jersey, says his professional goal is to "maintain his integrity in art." A graduate of the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University, Alonzo received a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Pennsylvania as the result of a fellowship given him by comedian/actor Bill Cosby and his wife Camille. Alonzo's work has been featured in solo and group exhibitions at major public and private venues. His work hangs in the private collections of Andrew Young, Jesse Jackson, Wesley Snipes and Maya Angelou. Alonzo's personal ambition is to have his art hung in the world's great art museums alongside other revered artists.



Reggie Harris

Five-time Emmy Award winning reporter and news anchor Reggie Harris has covered stories on race relations and homelessness. He has traveled to Somalia to report on American forces and the famine relief effort, and to South Africa, where he covered the presidential election. Harris has also reported locally on Hurricane Andrew, political campaigns and the Atlanta Child murders. A broadcast journalist for 22 years, Reggie Harris is a Governor and Trustee of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and a former member of the Board of the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University. Harris is currently a reporter for WWOR-TV.



Cephas Bowles

"My work involves the presentation of America's greatest cultural gift to the world," says Cephas Bowles. As General Manager of WBGO-FM, Bowles is in charge of the most listened to jazz station in the United States. WBGO is also the first independent broadcast station in the history of the state of New Jersey to raise \$500,000 in one fundraising campaign. Earlier in his career, Bowles was a Board member of the Sun Sounds Radio Reading Services and was co-founder of Blacks in Public Broadcasting. He is now an Executive Committee member of Eastern Public Radio and Finance Committee Chairperson of the Afro-American Radio Network.



Dr. Penelope Lattimer

Dr. Penelope Lattimer has worked for the betterment of urban education for twenty five years. She is responsible for the development the Gibbons School, located on Rutgers' Douglass College campus, and has served as the school's principal. Some of the elements of the school were eventually transferred into New Brunswick High School. Dr. Lattimer is currently the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction for the New Brunswick School system. Over the years, she has garnered millions of dollars in grants for special programs for the New Brunswick school district. Most recently, she garnered monies for the School-to-Work program. She currently serves on the national board of the Girl Scouts of America.



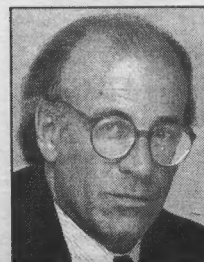
Charles Craig

Even though Charles Craig is often busy with his work as a Judge in the Municipal Court, City of Plainfield, he somehow finds time to pursue creative endeavors. He is currently a board member of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and has been instrumental in presenting "Art in the Atrium." The showcase spotlights artists from New Jersey and other areas. The show, which includes 165 works by 50 artists, is currently exhibited in the Morris County Administration building. Mr. Craig is also a member of the NJ Black Issues Convention, the Garden State Bar Association and the NJ Public Policy Research Institute.



Emily Mann

Emily Mann, Artistic Director of the McCarter Theatre in Princeton, works to present projects by new and established playwrights from a wide variety of backgrounds. Her belief of total inclusion in the American theatre has prompted McCarter to showcase plays highlighting people of all ethnicities. Under her leadership and that of Managing Director Jeffrey Woodward, the McCarter Theatre won a 1994 Tony award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. Mann, who wrote and directed the acclaimed play *Having Our Say*, is a member of the Dramatist Guild and was recently elected to serve on its council. She has been honored by the Greater Los Angeles NAACP.



Lawrence P. Goldman

As President and Chief Executive Officer of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Lawrence Goldman heads up the design, building and operating of Newark, New Jersey's first major performing arts center. Mr. Goldman lists the building of the \$200 million dollar NJPAC as one of his greatest career accomplishments. The Arts Center, which boasts a 2,700 foot multi-purpose hall, a 500 seat theater, concert hall and dining facility, has brought a wealth of new jobs to the community. Goldman, who is proud of the cultural performances and programs that will be presented at the Center, feels it is time our state and society cease from tearing at our differences and emphasize what we have in common.

THESE PEOPLE GET THE JOB DONE.

A very special thanks to all of the people who made this year's 100 Most Influential event possible. These people demonstrated a true commitment to honoring the vision of the 100 Most Influential event. They devoted time, energy, and resources, so that all who attended would remember this event as one of the most important of its kind in New Jersey. We salute you all, as together we raised the standard of excellence for this year's 100 Most Influential event. Thank you for caring about our communities just as much as we do.

Executive Producers

Henry C. Johnson, Ph.D & Jan Edgerton Johnson

Event Coordinator

John L. Ruddock, III

Host Committee Team Leaders

Production & Logistics
Registration & Tickets
VIP Relations & Hospitality
Video/Photography
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Sonya Kimble-Ellis, Deborah Stapleton,
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Sharon Vincent

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Malcolm X Shabazz High School Color Guard

Cpt. LeRoy Adkinson, ROTC Senior Army Instructor, commanding

Event Photography by Glen Frieson and Jerry Hall

CITY NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY

Awards And Recognition

1986
Devoted and Invaluable Services
Rendered to
Union county
Private Industry Council

1988
DEDICATED SERVICE
Greater Newark
Chamber Of Commerce

1989
Entrepreneur Of The Year
Minority Business Journal
Black New Jersey Magazine
Atlantic City, NJ

1989
Community Service Award
City News / Minority Business Journal
Black United Fund Of New Jersey

1990
Afro American Award For Journalistic
Excellence,
Minority Business Journal
New Jersey United Minority Business
Braintrust Plainfield, NJ

1991
Minority Business Advocate Of The Year
Minority Business Journal
Minority Business Development
Center, Newark, NJ

1991
City News Publishing Company
Outstanding Success In Business
In The African-American Community

Black Fridays

1991
Best News Photo
City News
National Newspaper Publishers'
Association Nassau, Bahamas

1992
Best News Story
City News
National Newspaper Publishers'
Association Baltimore, Maryland

1993
Best Feature Story
City News
National Newspaper Publishers
Association Los Angeles California

Best Youth Section
City News
National Newspaper Publishers
Association Los Angeles California

1993
Congressional Record
Hon. Donald M. Payne
U.S. House Of Representatives

1994
Best Editorial
City News
National Newspaper Publishers
Association Minneapolis, Minnesota

1994
Henry & Jan Johnson

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Community Service Award
The North Ward Center
Newark, NJ

1995
Public Communication Award
City News Publications
New Jersey State NAACP

1995
Special Congressional Recognition
Meritorious Service
City News Shore Edition
Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr.

1995
Media Appreciation Award
The City News
The Beta Alpha Omega Chapter
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Newark, NJ

1996
Media Appreciation Award
The City News
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Newark, NJ

1996
Frank C. Carr Community Service Award
City News Publishing Co. &
Yes Communications
Inroads Central New Jersey Interns

1996
Henry & Jan Johnson
Community Service Award

26th Annual Equal Opportunity Day
The Urban League Of Union County

1996
Henry C. Johnson
Jan M. Edgerton Johnson
Black Achievers Program
Entrepreneur Of The Year Award
The YMCA's Of Northern
And Central New Jersey

PROCLAMATIONS

State Senator Wynona Lipman,
The New Jersey State Senate
Trenton, NJ

Mayor Sharpe James
City Of Newark

Mayor Cardell Cooper
City Of East Orange

Mayor Michael G. Steele
Township Of Irvington

Mayor Bret Schundler
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CITY NEWS

Let's hold it together.



When people get together, there's nothing they can't do. The 100 individuals honored this evening have demonstrated a commitment to holding things together in New Jersey. Each awardee has worked diligently to improve the quality of life for the families, children and communities of this state. As a company that is dedicated to being involved with the communities we serve, AT&T salutes the 100 Most Influential.

Let's all follow the lead of the 100 Most Influential and take the future of New Jersey in our hands.

